

\$2.25 USA/\$2.75 CANADA

ISSUE 52

OCTOBER 1992

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA

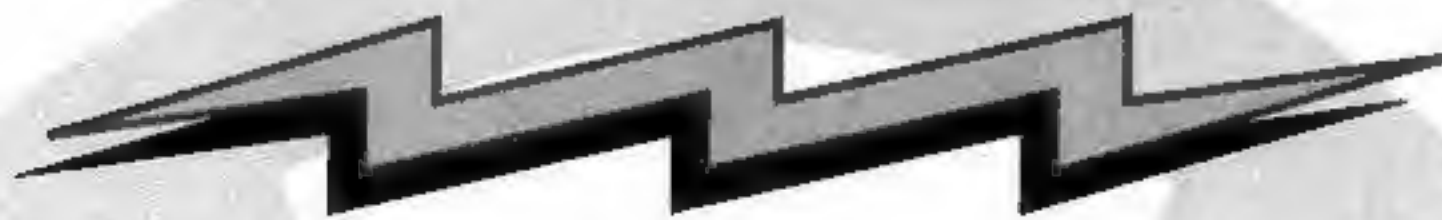
TURTLES



CITY AT WAR

M I R A G E P U B L I S H I N G

CITY AT WAR



PART 3 OF 13

KEVIN EASTMAN/PETER LAIRD

JIM LAWSON/PETER LAIRD

STORY

SCRIPT



JIM LAWSON

KEITH AIKEN

PENCILS

INKS

MARY KELLEHER

LETTERS

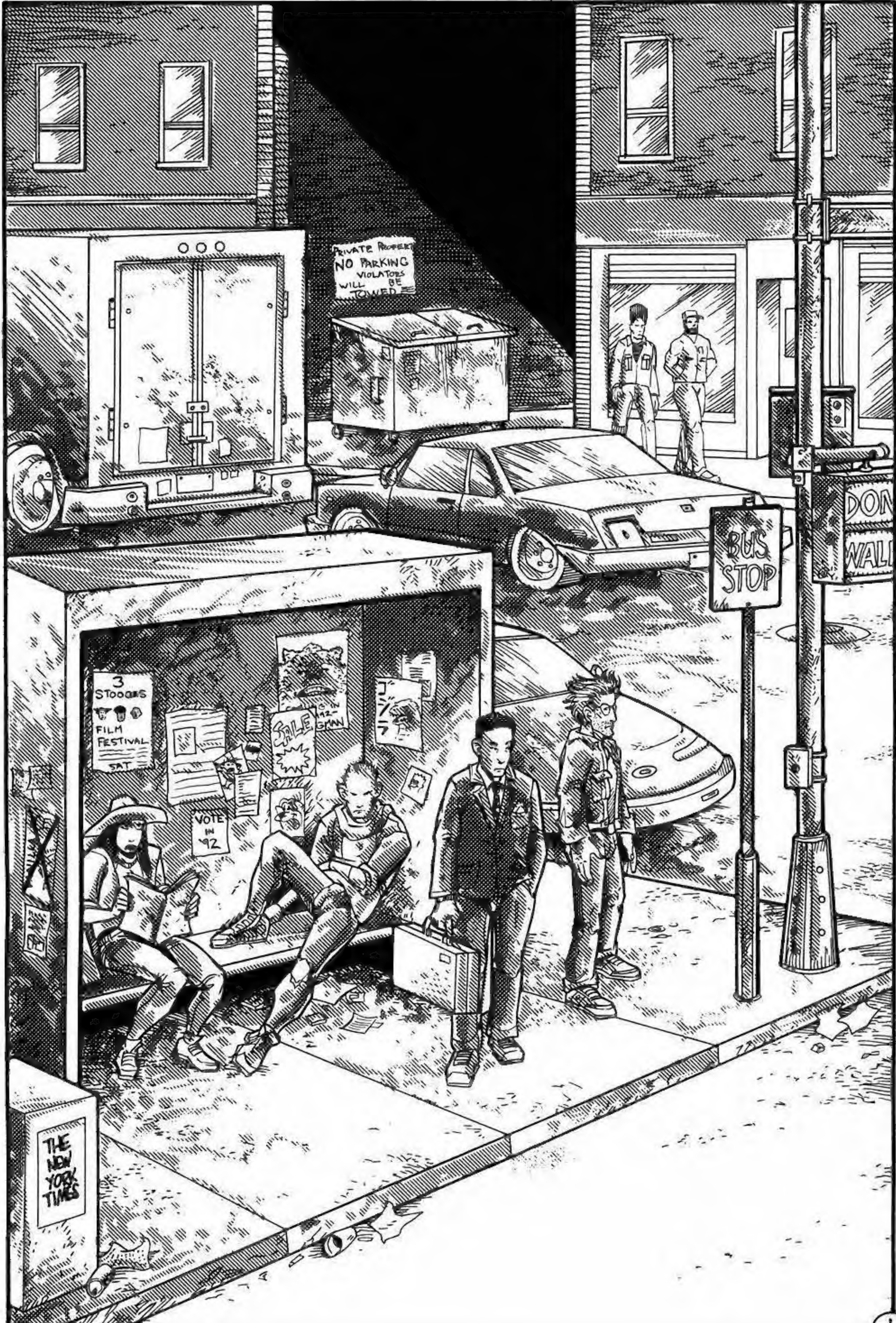


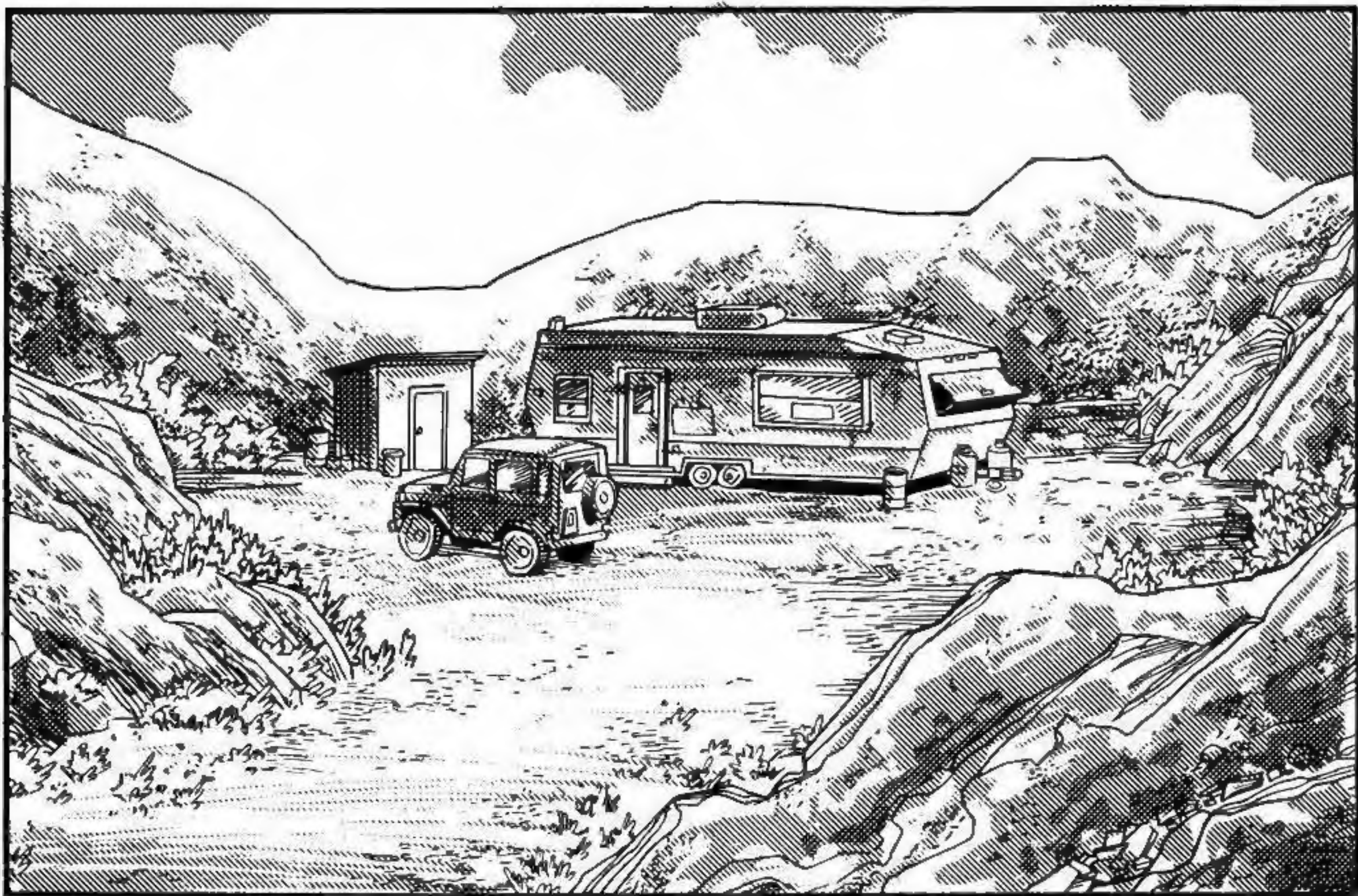
Yikes! It can't be October already can it? The warm weather is rapidly fading, and for us the past season will always be remembered as the summer of issue 50! When we weren't working on the book itself, there were the plotting sessions for the subsequent "City at War" issues, related press and TV interviews and of course, those conventions! The highlight of these was the Turtle Con which was held in Portsmouth New Hampshire celebrating our eighth anniversary. The entire Mirage crew was on hand and we had a great day. Turn to the back of the story for some photos from the weekend.

We've got just a few things to fill you in on before you jump into this issue. First, as we have mentioned before, while this comic now has a regular creative team and continuity, occasionally we will be publishing some TMNT "Specials". For the most part, these will be one-shot stand-alone stories that are not connected to the regular storyline. This month's offering is Matt Howarth's "Haunted Pizza". It's another deranged TMNT tale from the creator of "Savage Henry" and "Those Annoying Post Brothers"!

On a completely different note, we are pleased to announce that once again we are offering mail order here at Mirage. If you are missing any hard-to-find items, take a look at our list in the back of this issue -- hey, we're here to help! That's all for now, and thanks to all of you who have written recently -- keep it up!

Till next month,





NO GRACIAS...MI BOCA NO
ESTA PREPARADA TODAVIA...

AY



VAS A HACER LA
DENUNCIA?

EH?

SOBRE TU
COCHE...

SUPONGO...

BUENO ES HORA
DE IRME

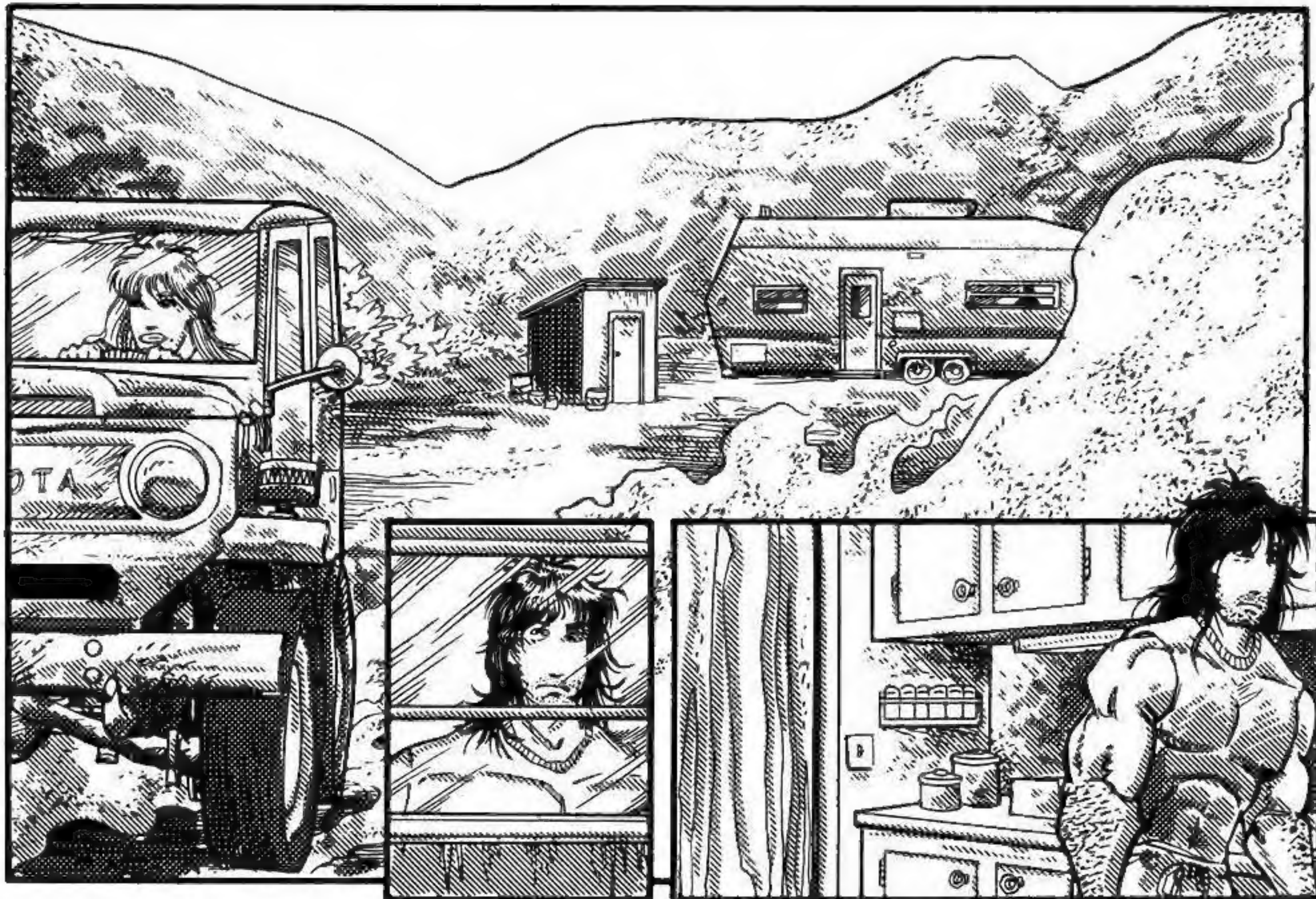


MMM

PUEDES QUEDARTE Y
DESCANSAR POR
HOY

NOS VEMOS MAS TARDE
ENTONCES

GRACIAS TE
ESPERARE...



POLICIA EN
QUE PODEMOS
AYUDARLO?



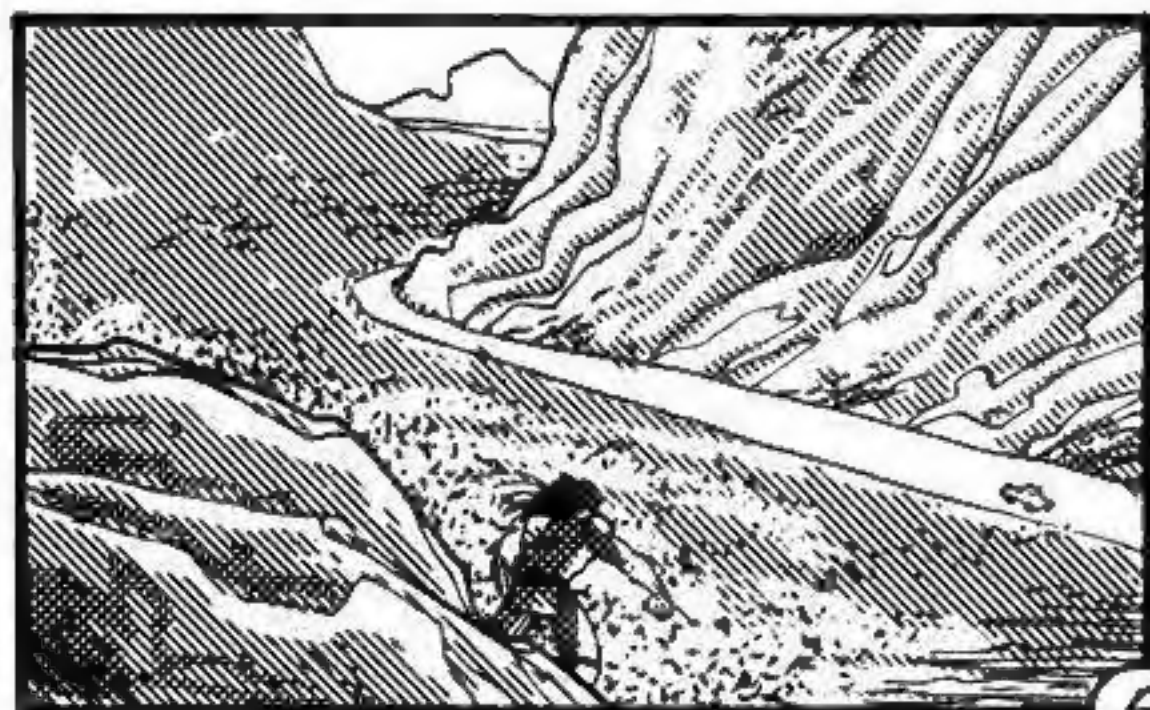
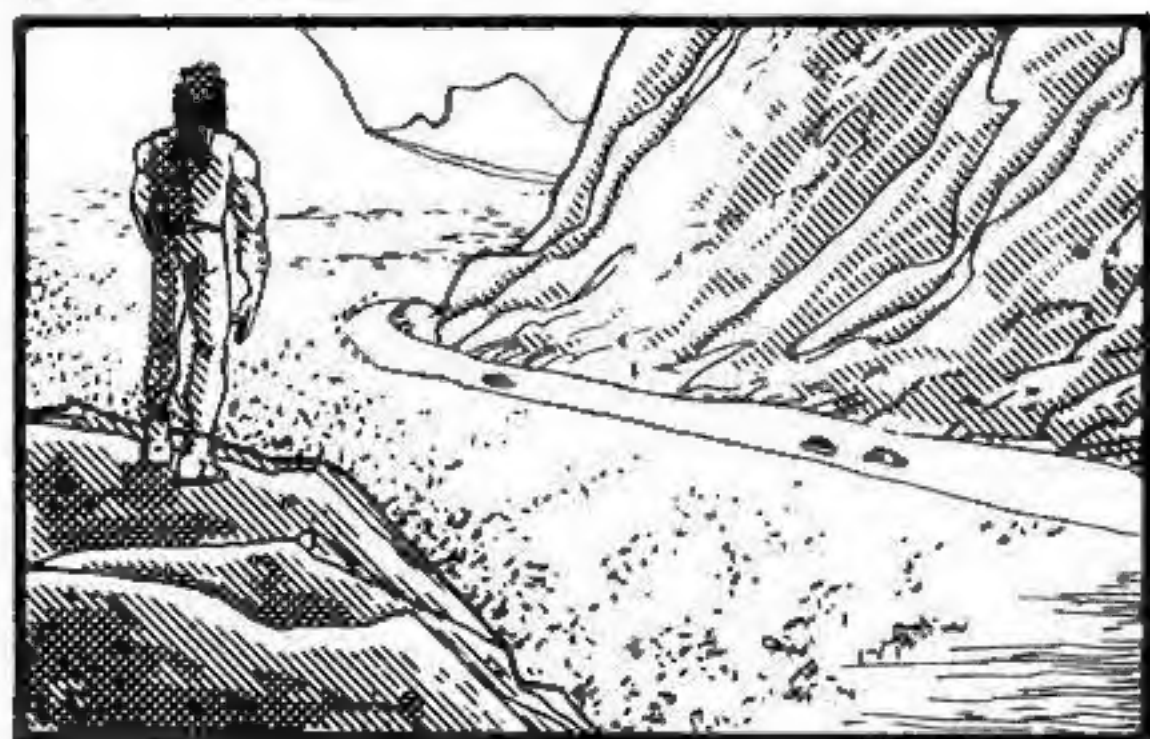
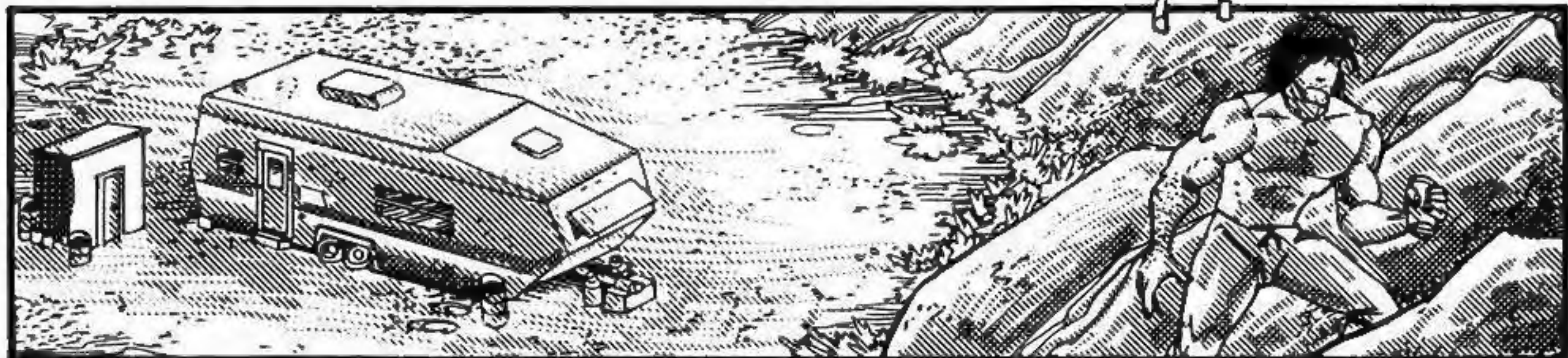
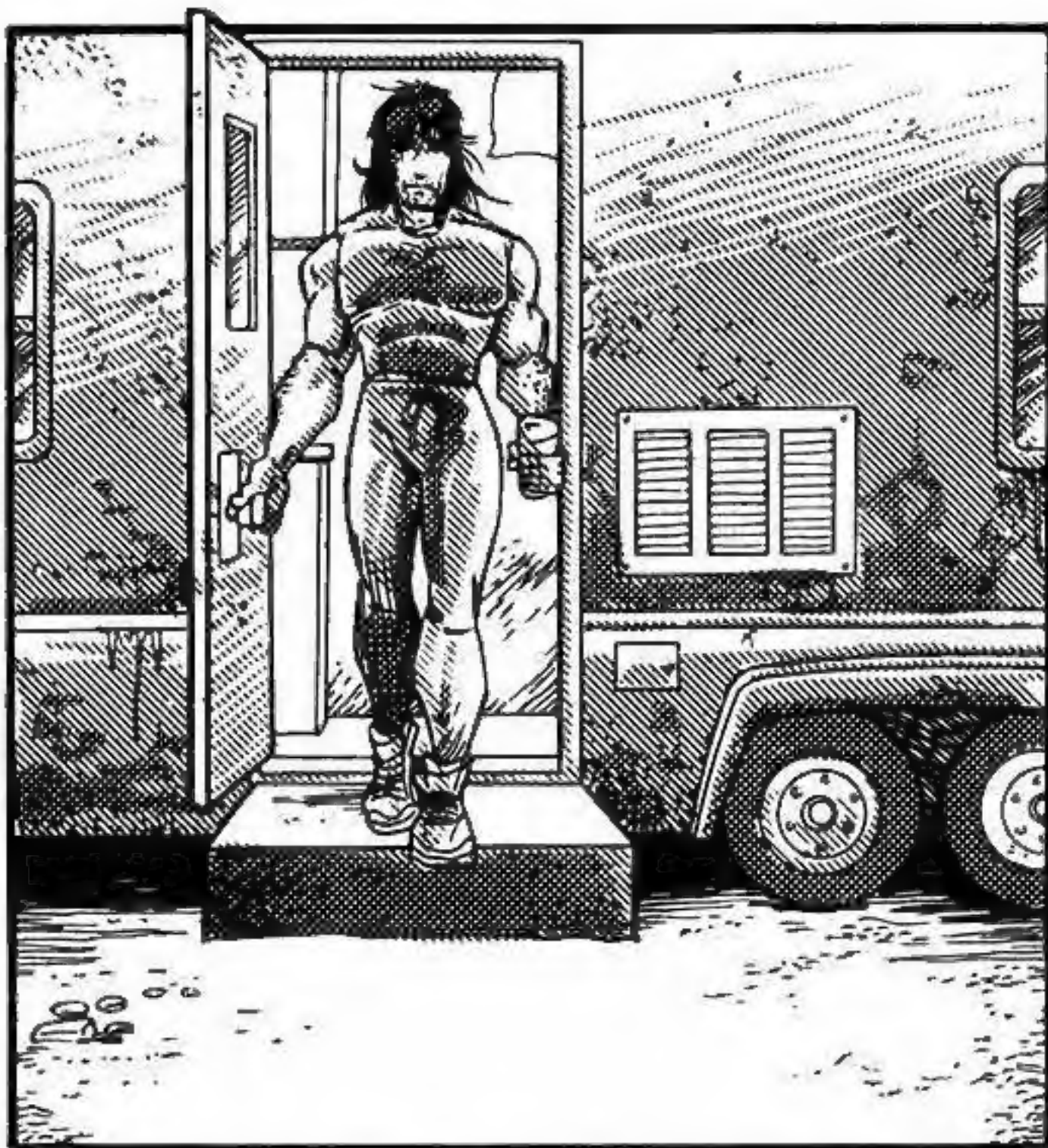
SI QUIERO
REPORTAR
EH...

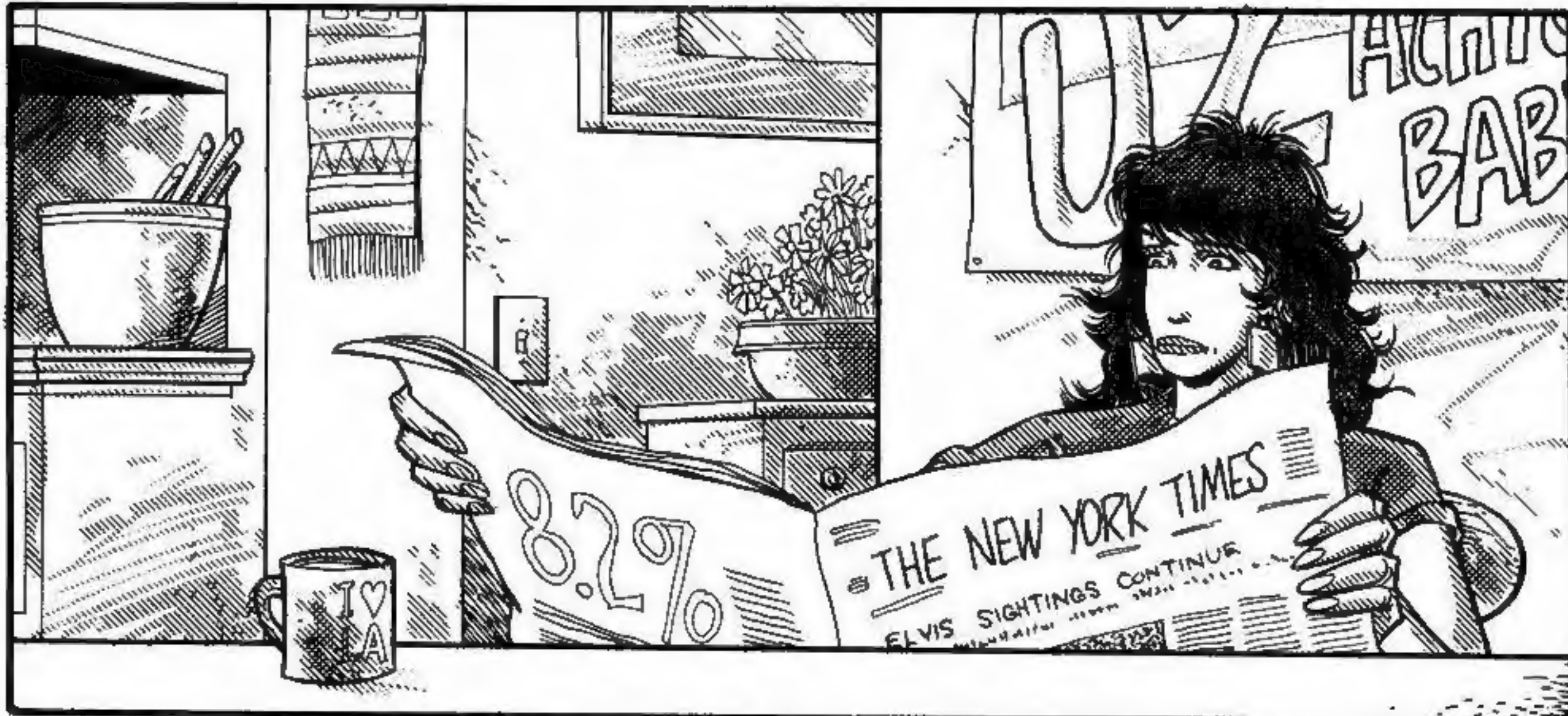
QUE
COSA
SEÑOR?

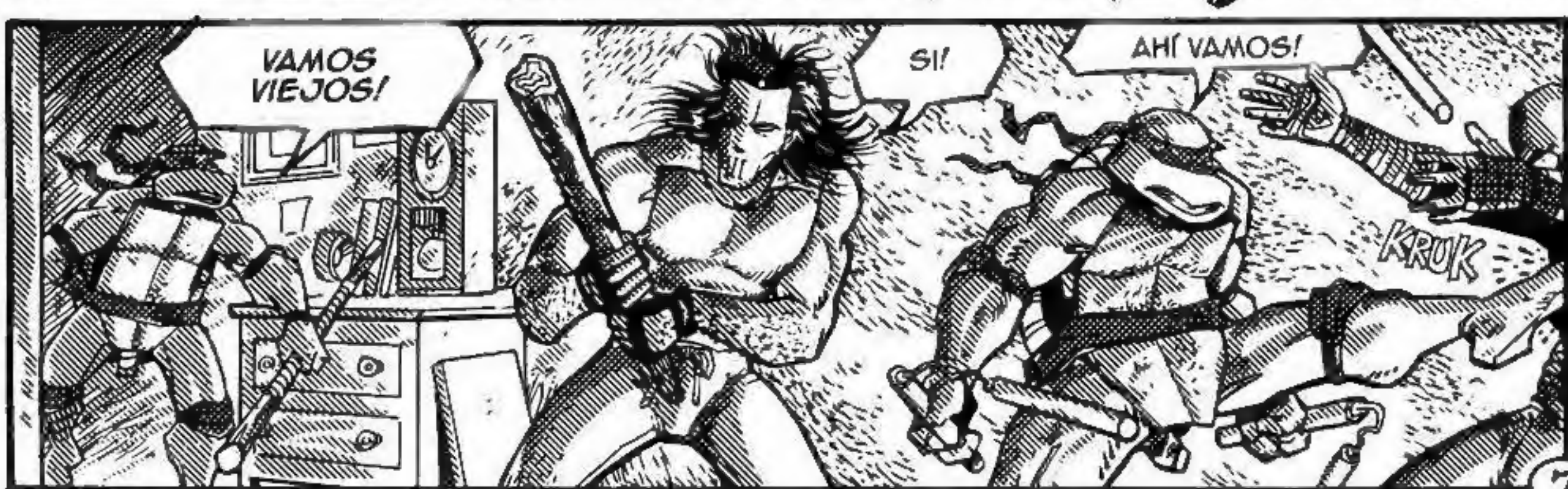
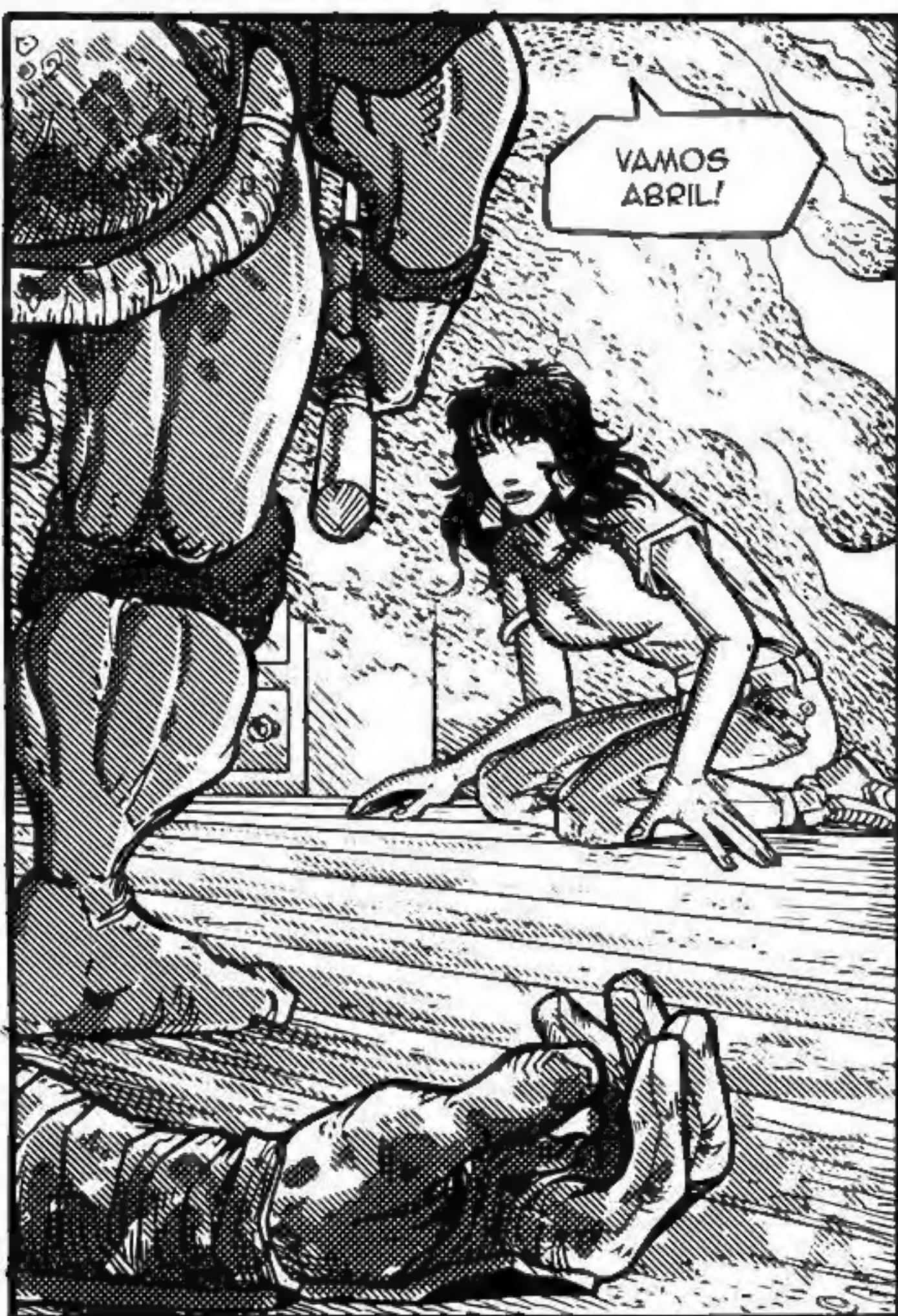
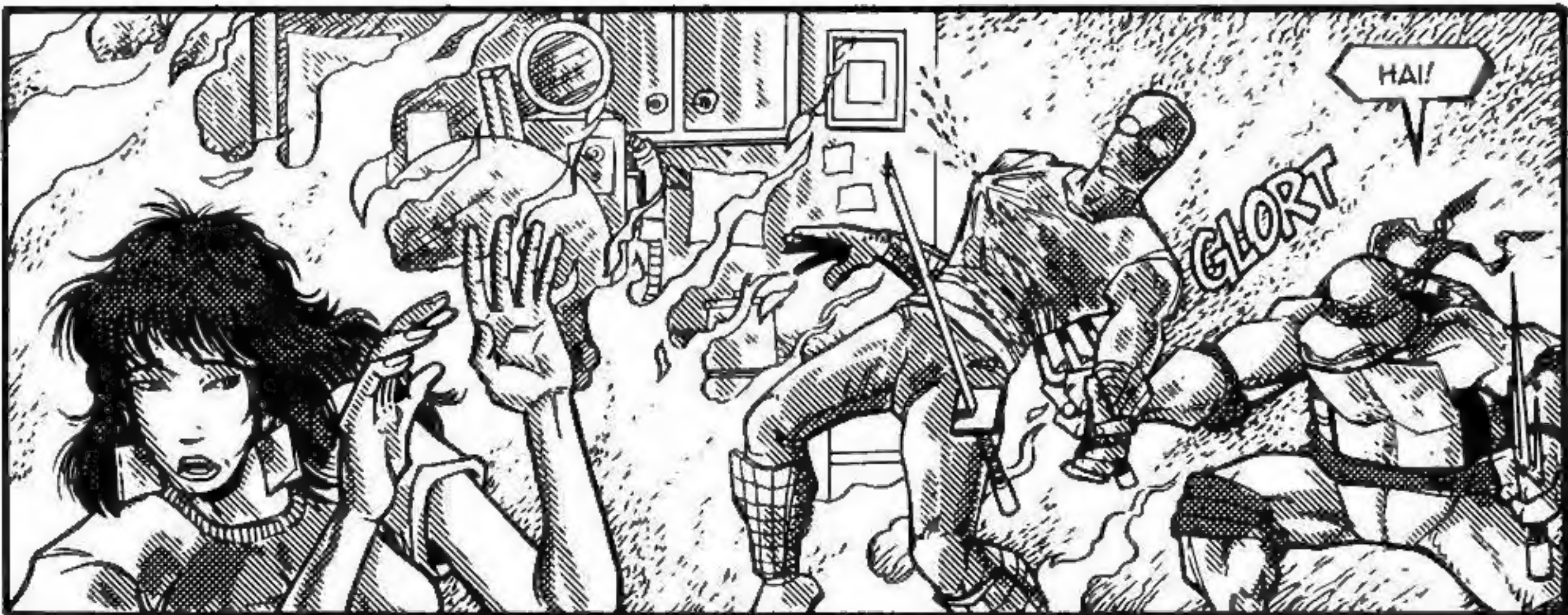


CLICK











EY!

ABRIL!

EY!

DESPIERTA!

HAY...UN HUECO EN LA PARED...



QUE ESTABAS SONANDO?



VAMOS HAY UNAS REBAJAS EN EL CENTRO...TE CONSEGUIREMOS NUEVA ROPA!

ROPA?

Y COMEREMOS!



QUE TE PARECE MEXICANO?



BUENO...

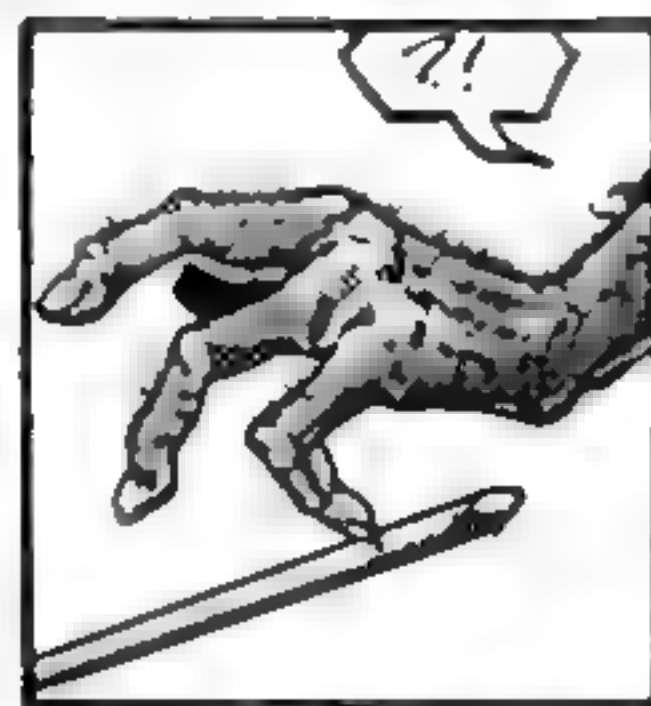
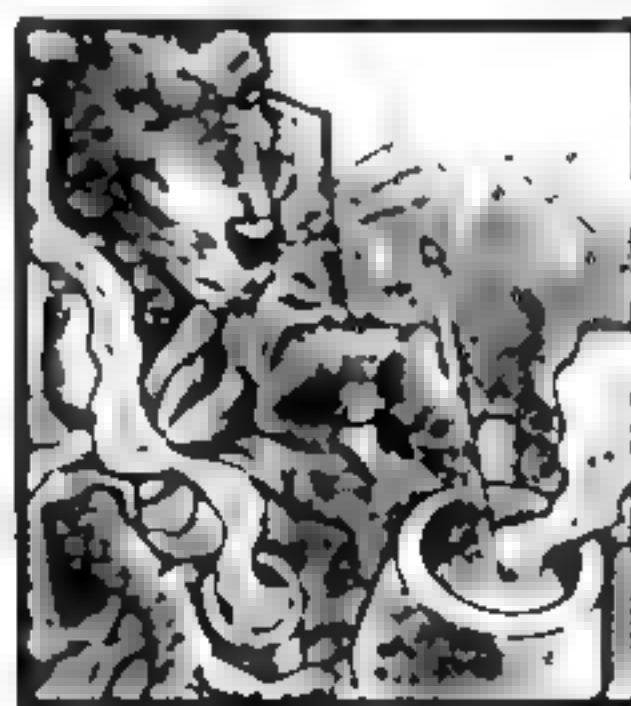
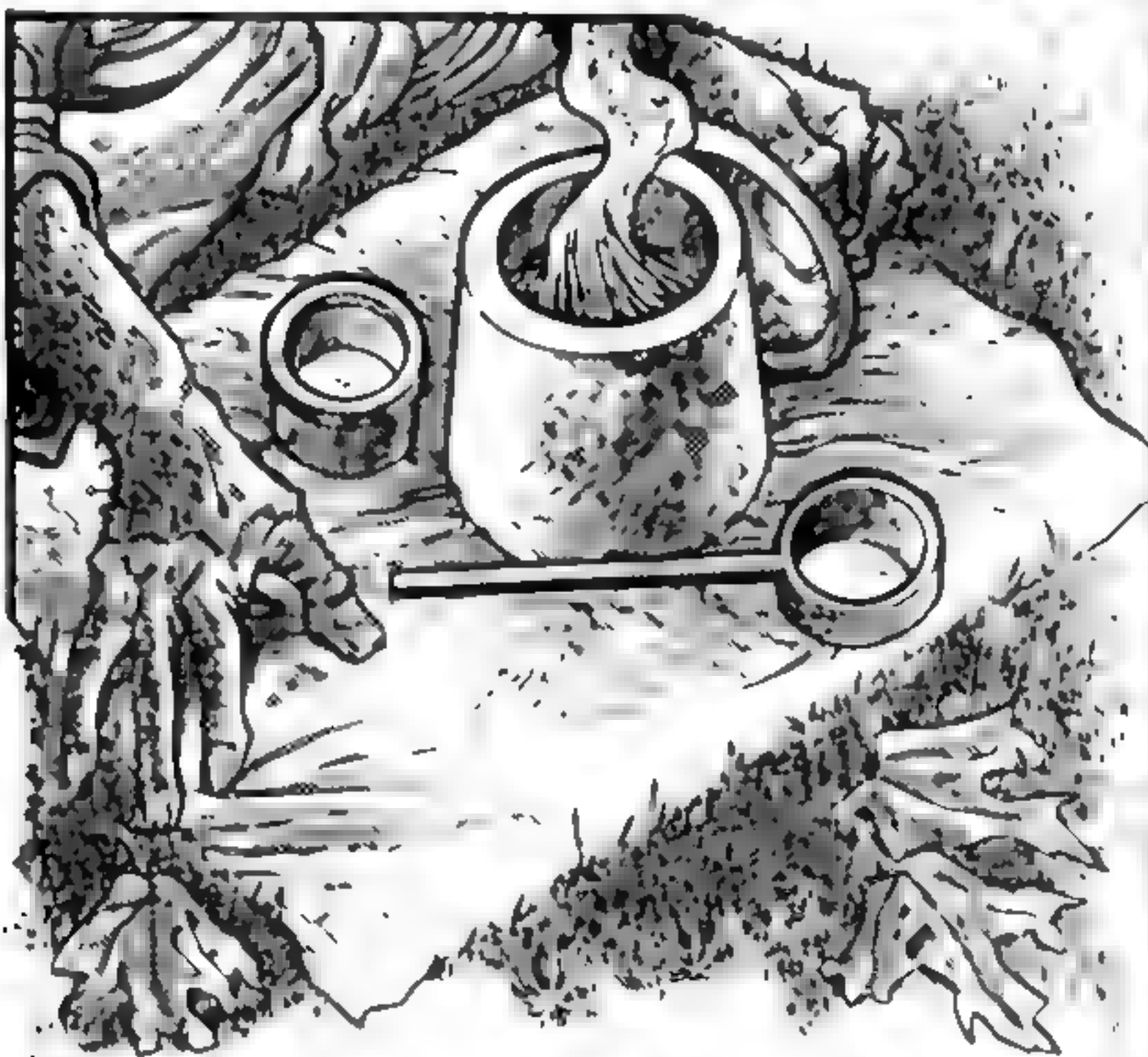
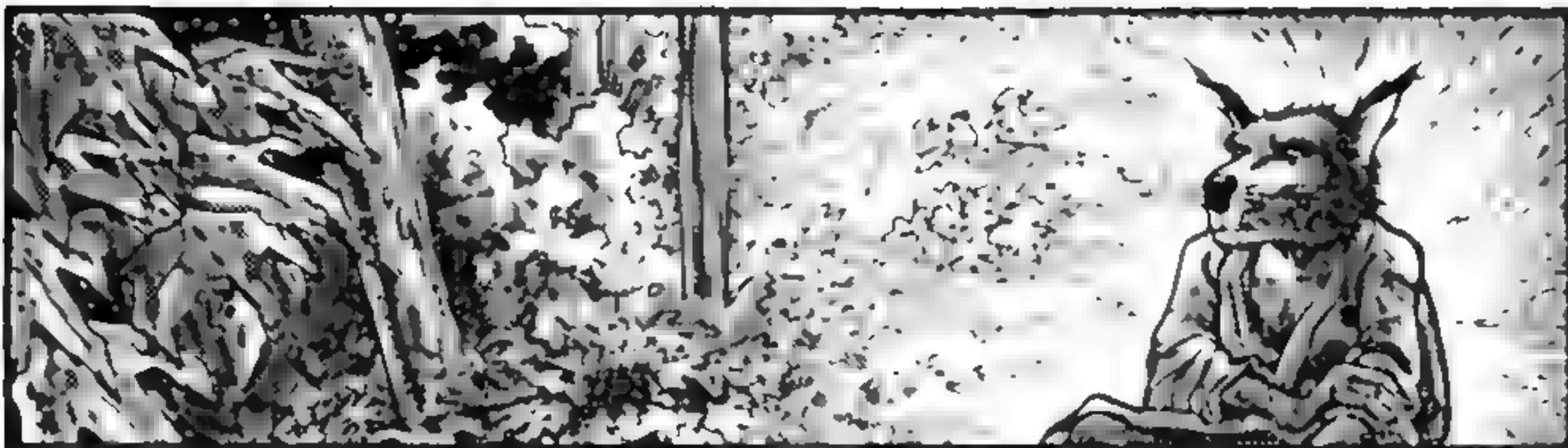
VAMOS!

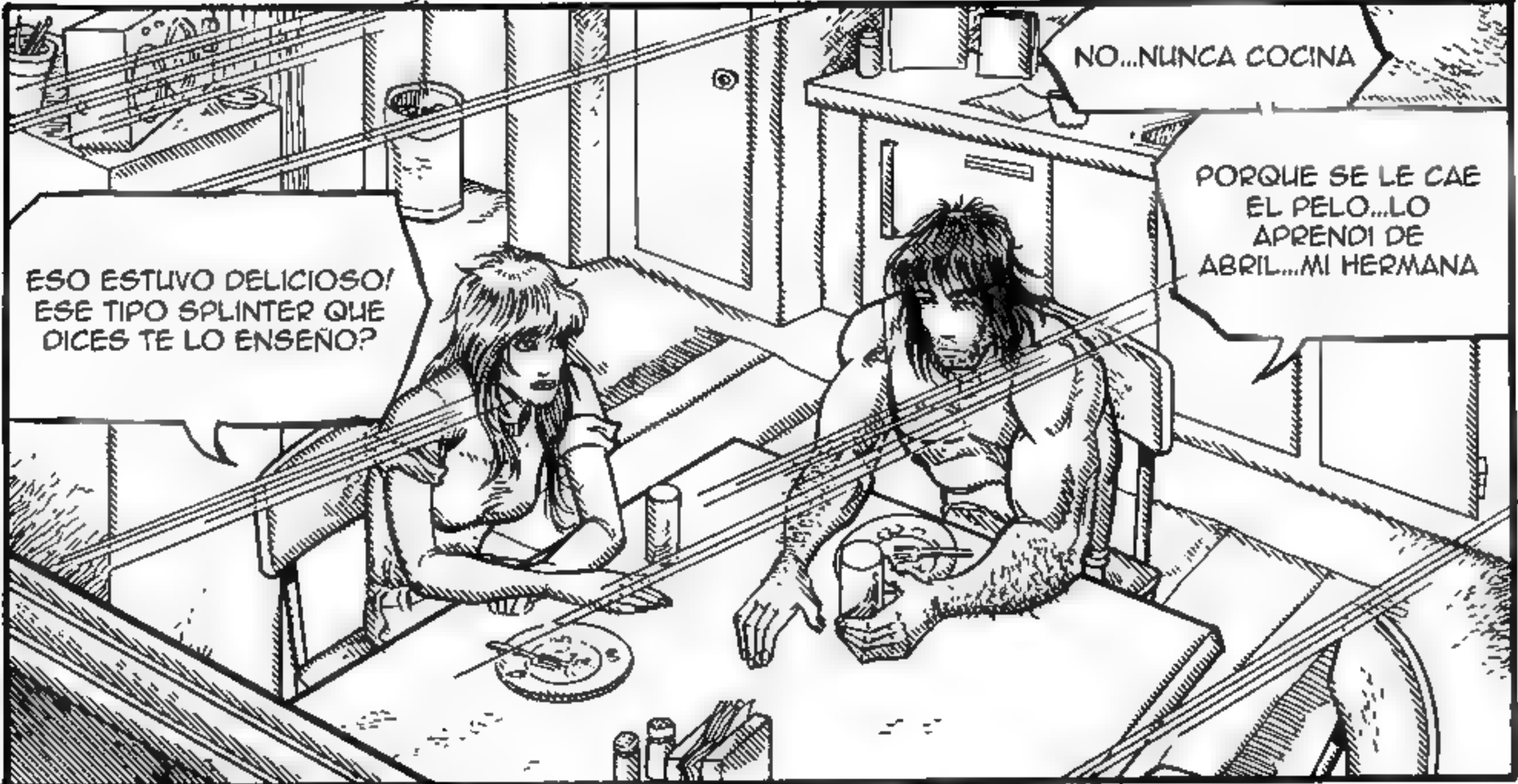


click









ESO ESTUVO DELICIOSO!
ESE TIPO SPLINTER QUE
DICES TE LO ENSEÑO?

NO...NUNCA COCINA

PORQUE SE LE CAE
EL PELO...LO
APRENDI DE
ABRIL...MI HERMANA



EXTRANAS A TU
FAMILIA?



SI...SUPONGO...

HAY ALGO QUE
NO ME ESTAS
CONTANDO?



EH...

QUIERO QUE
SEPAS QUE
CUANDO ESTE
LISTO PARA
CONTARLO...

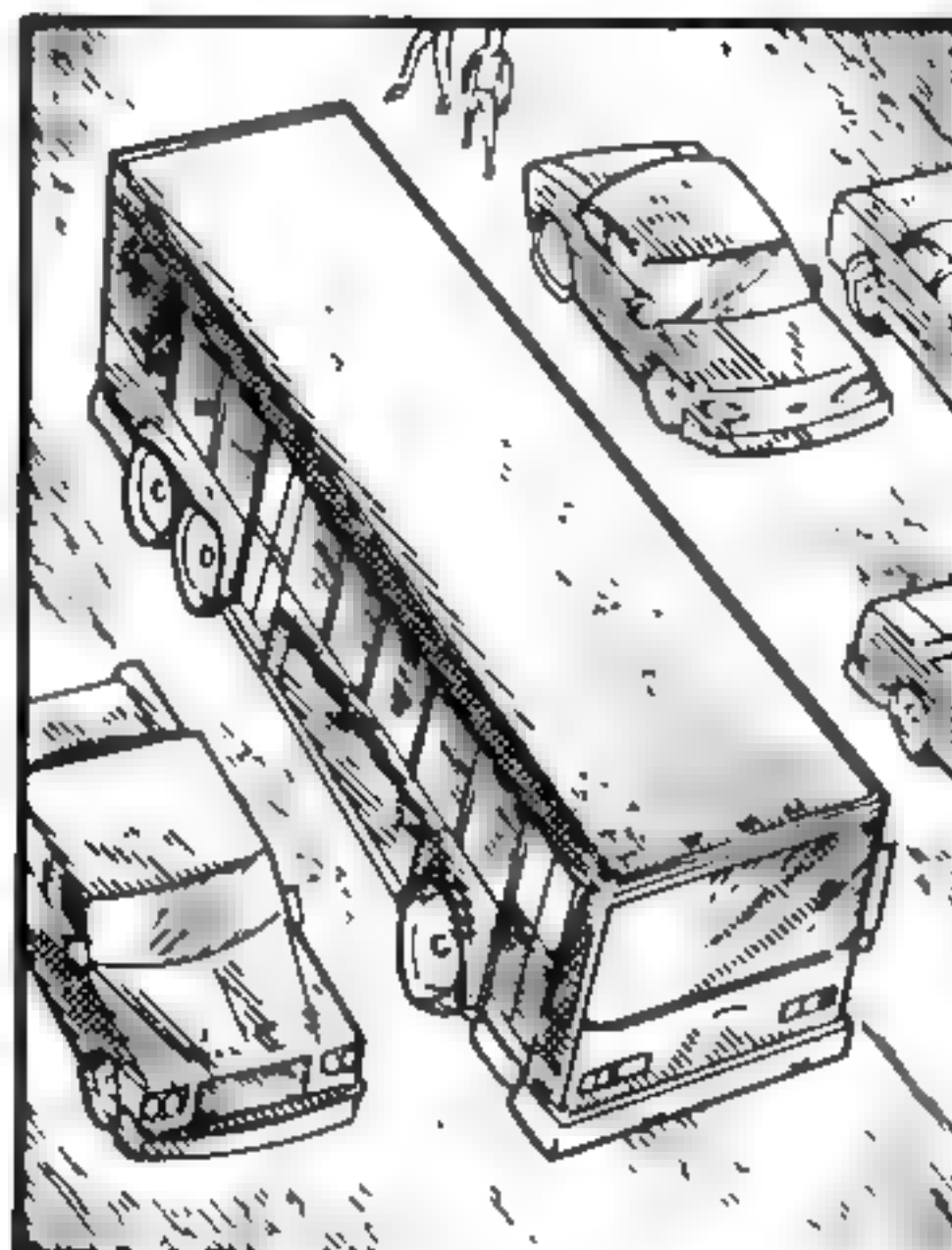
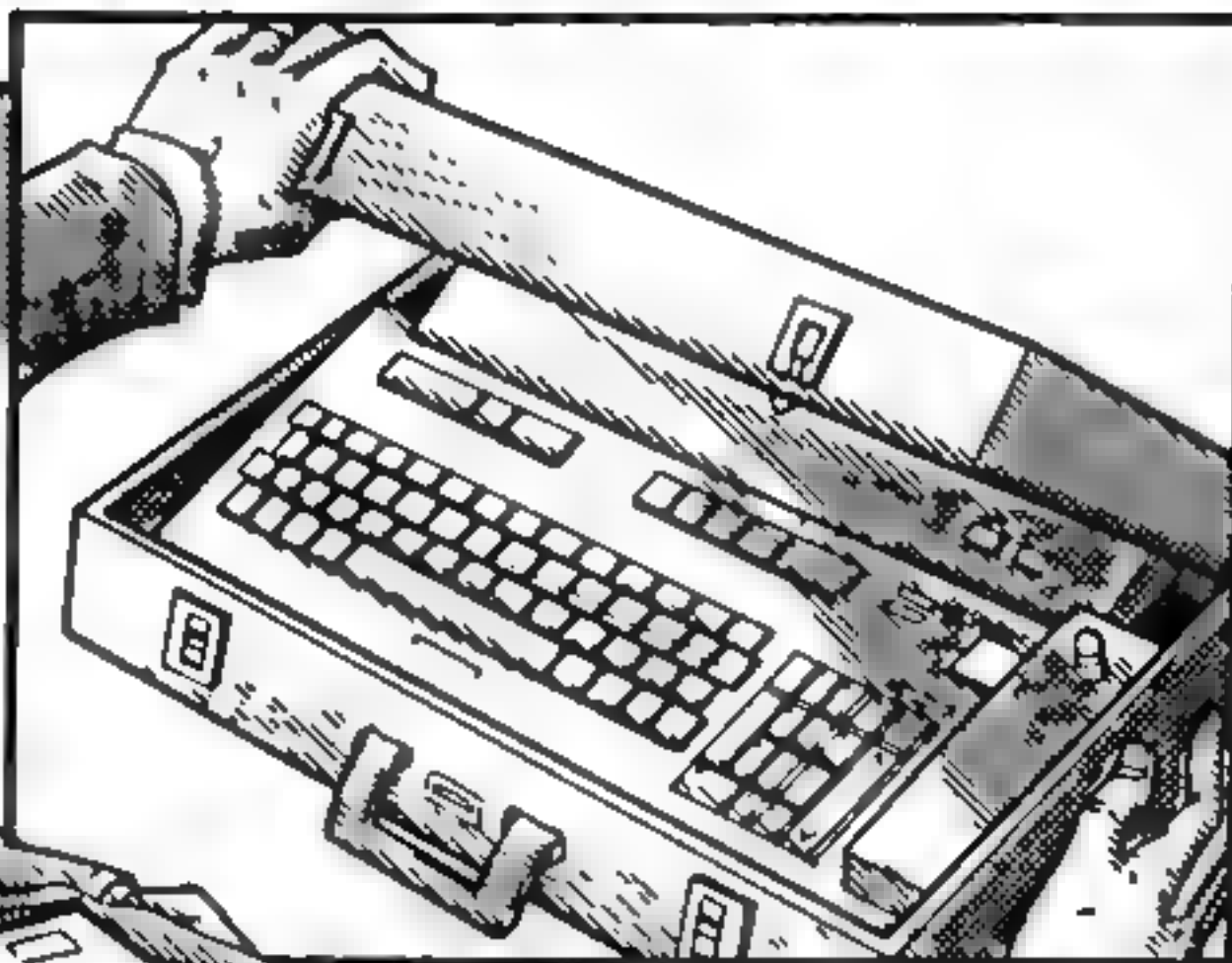
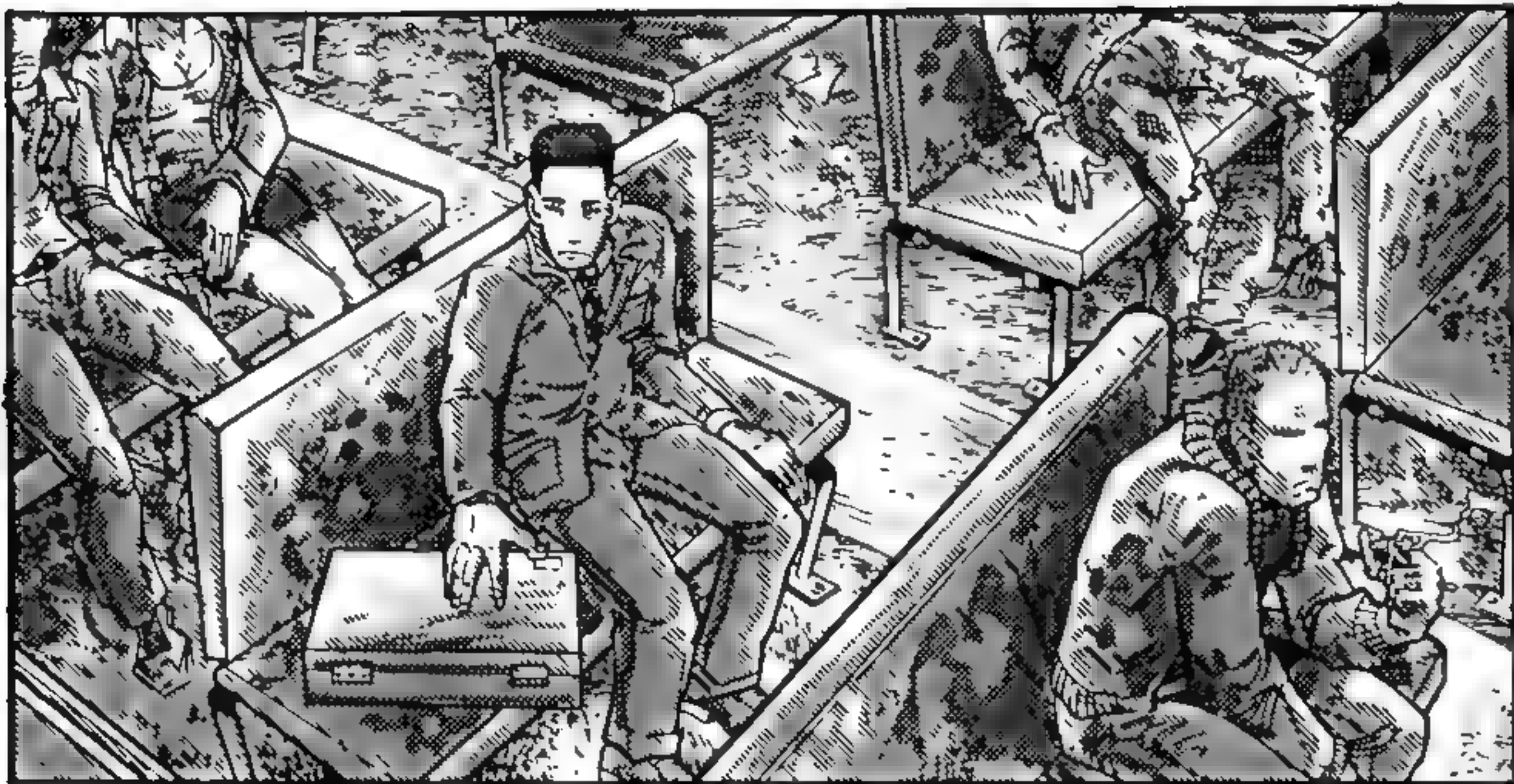
ESTARE
AQUI



HASTA
ESE DIA...

PUEDES
QUEDARTE

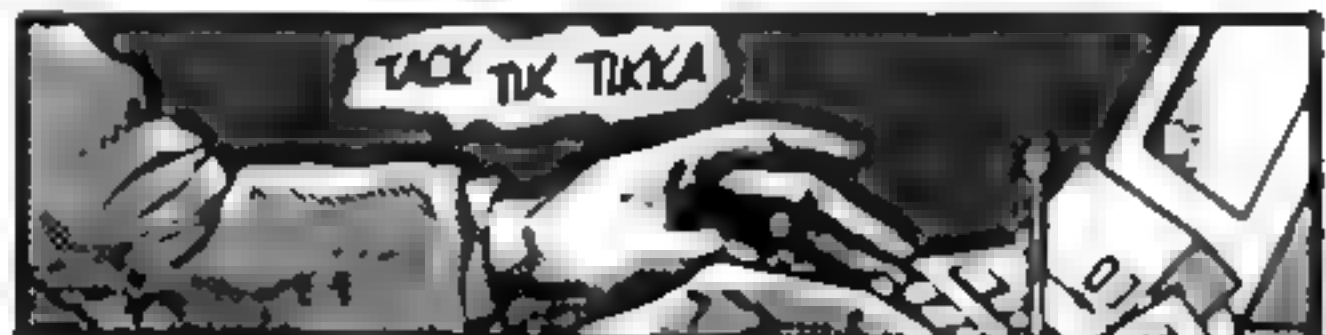
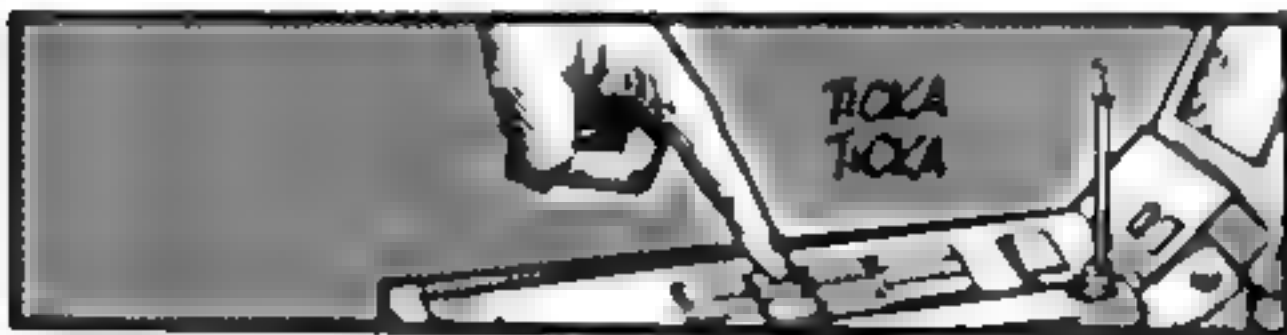




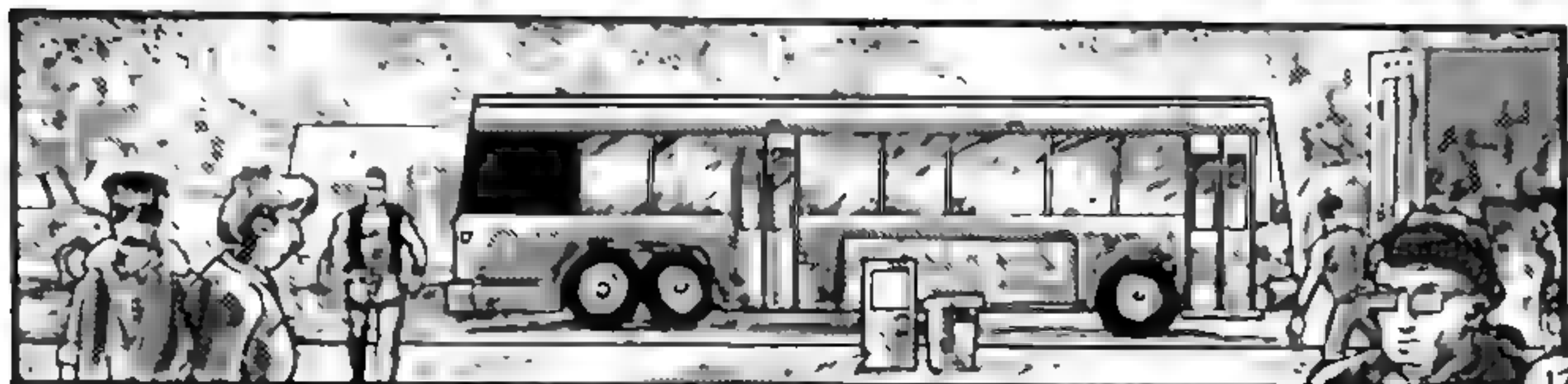


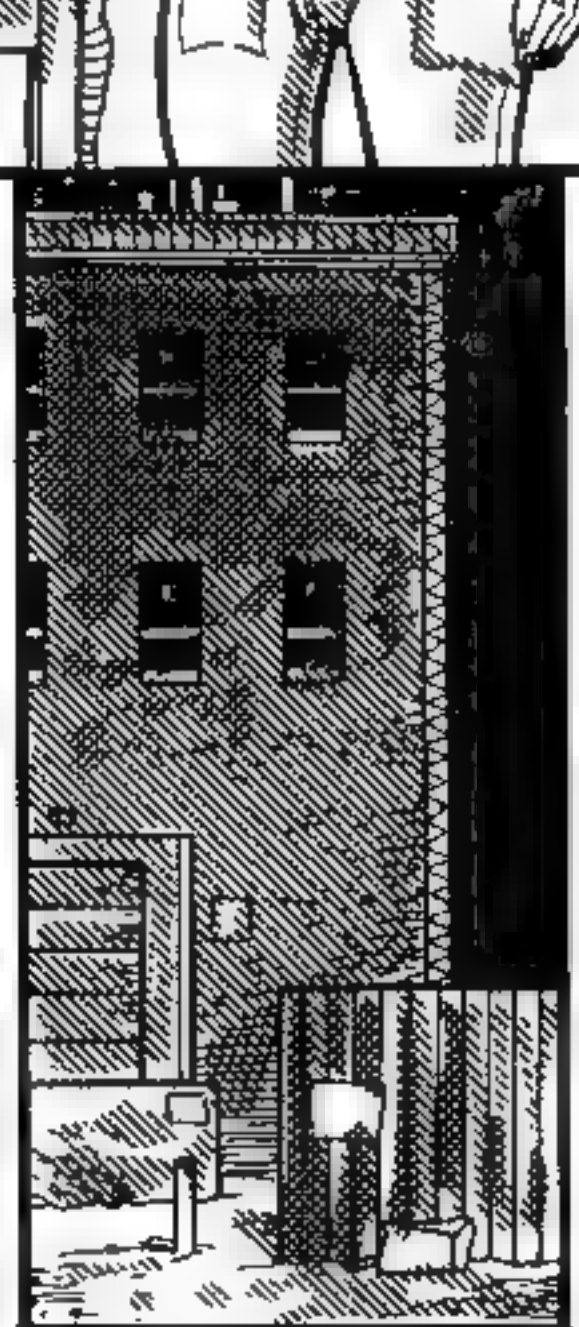
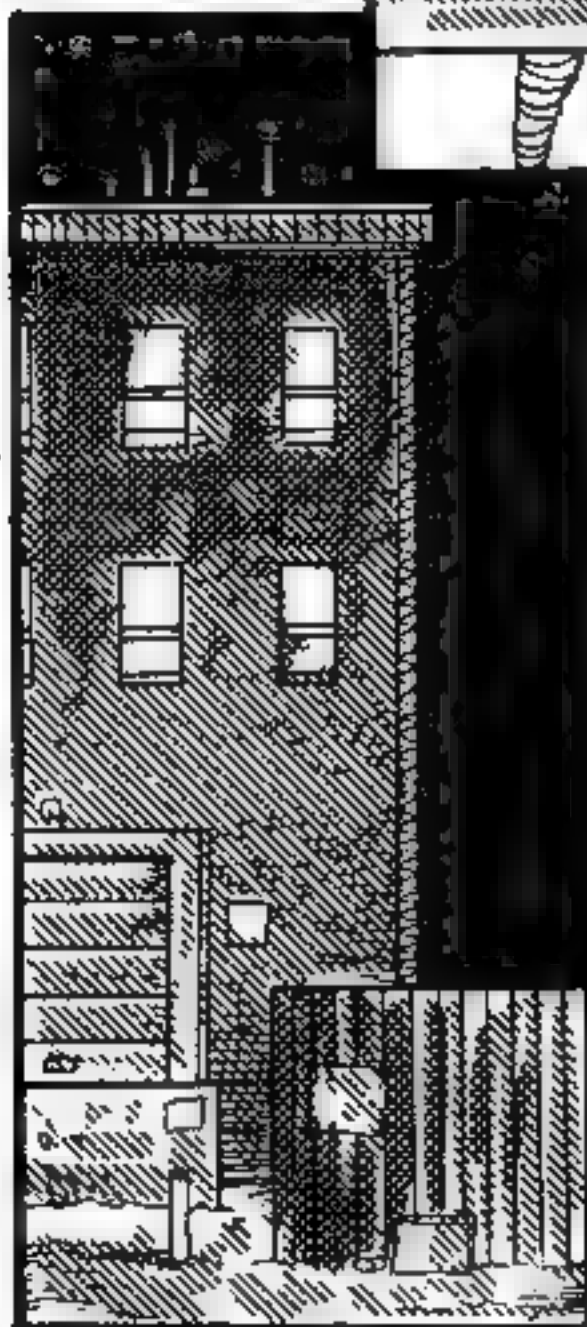
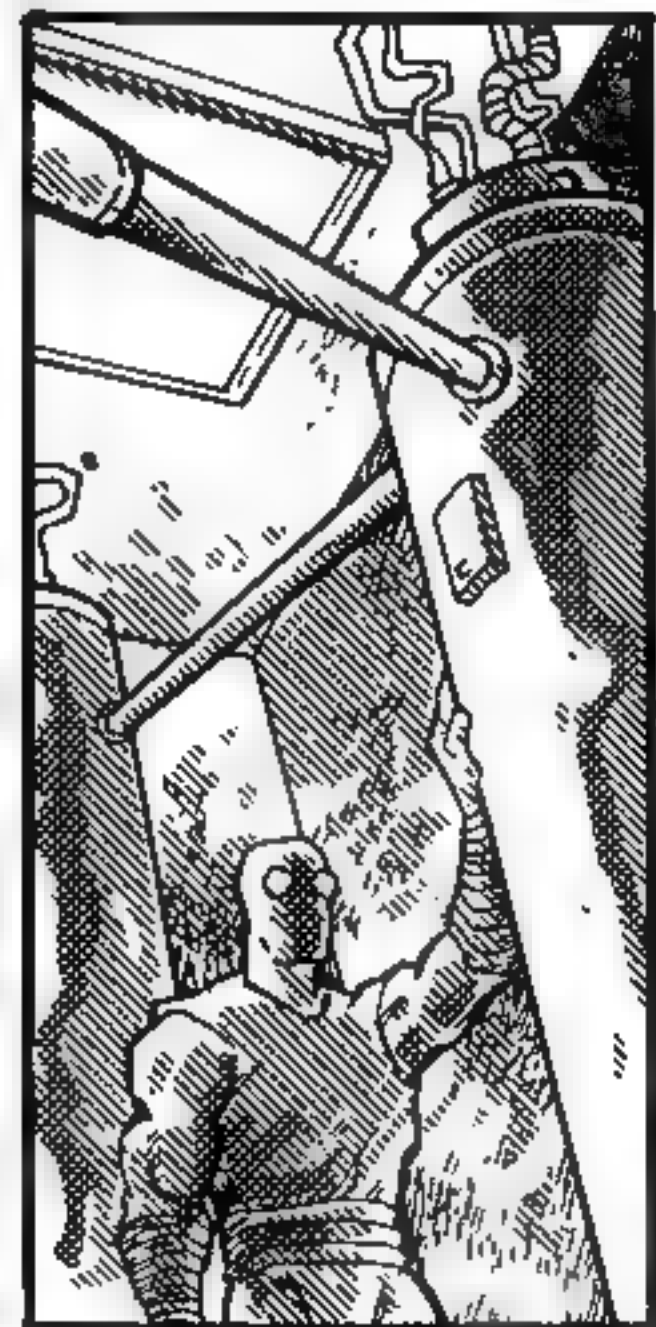
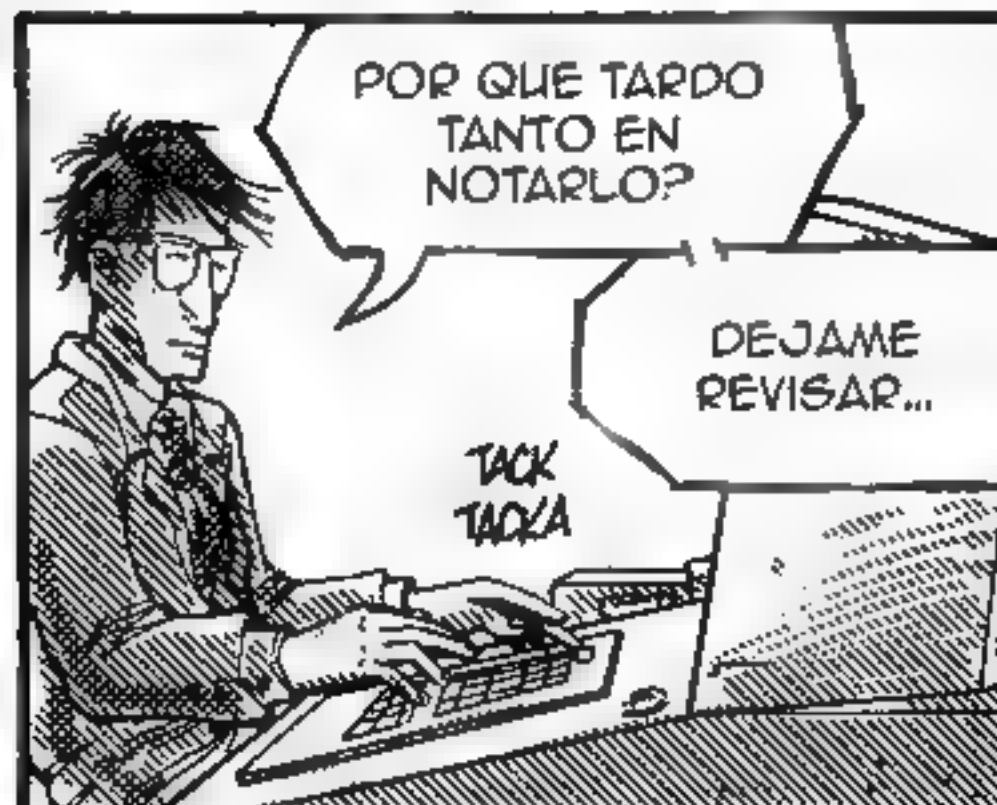
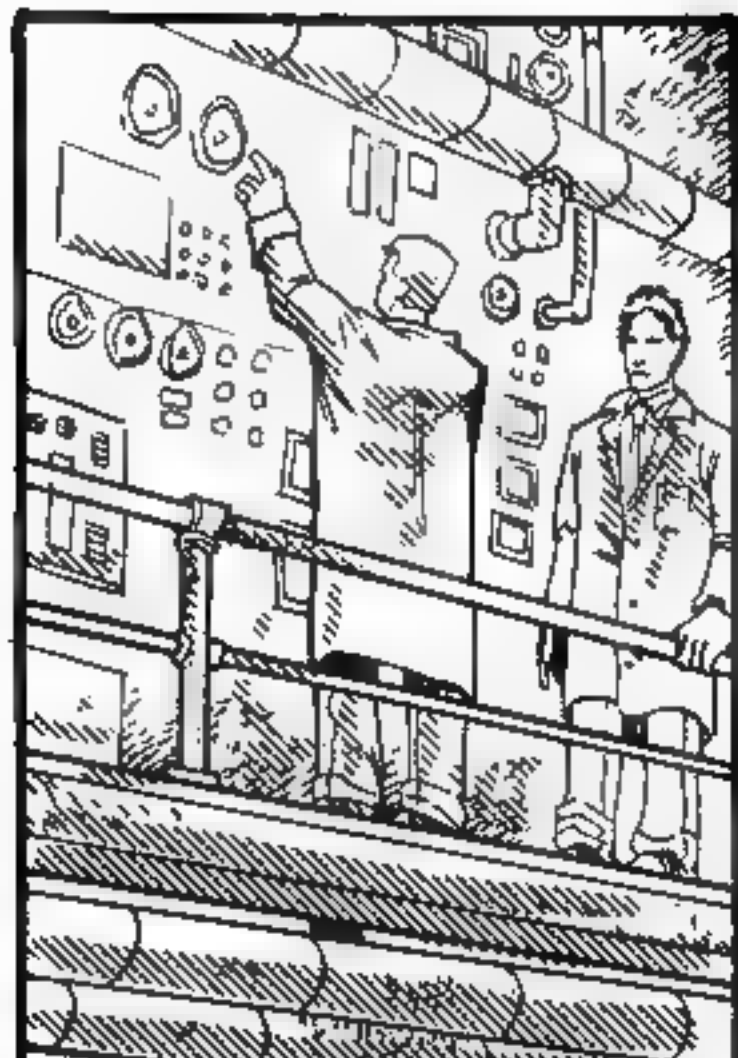
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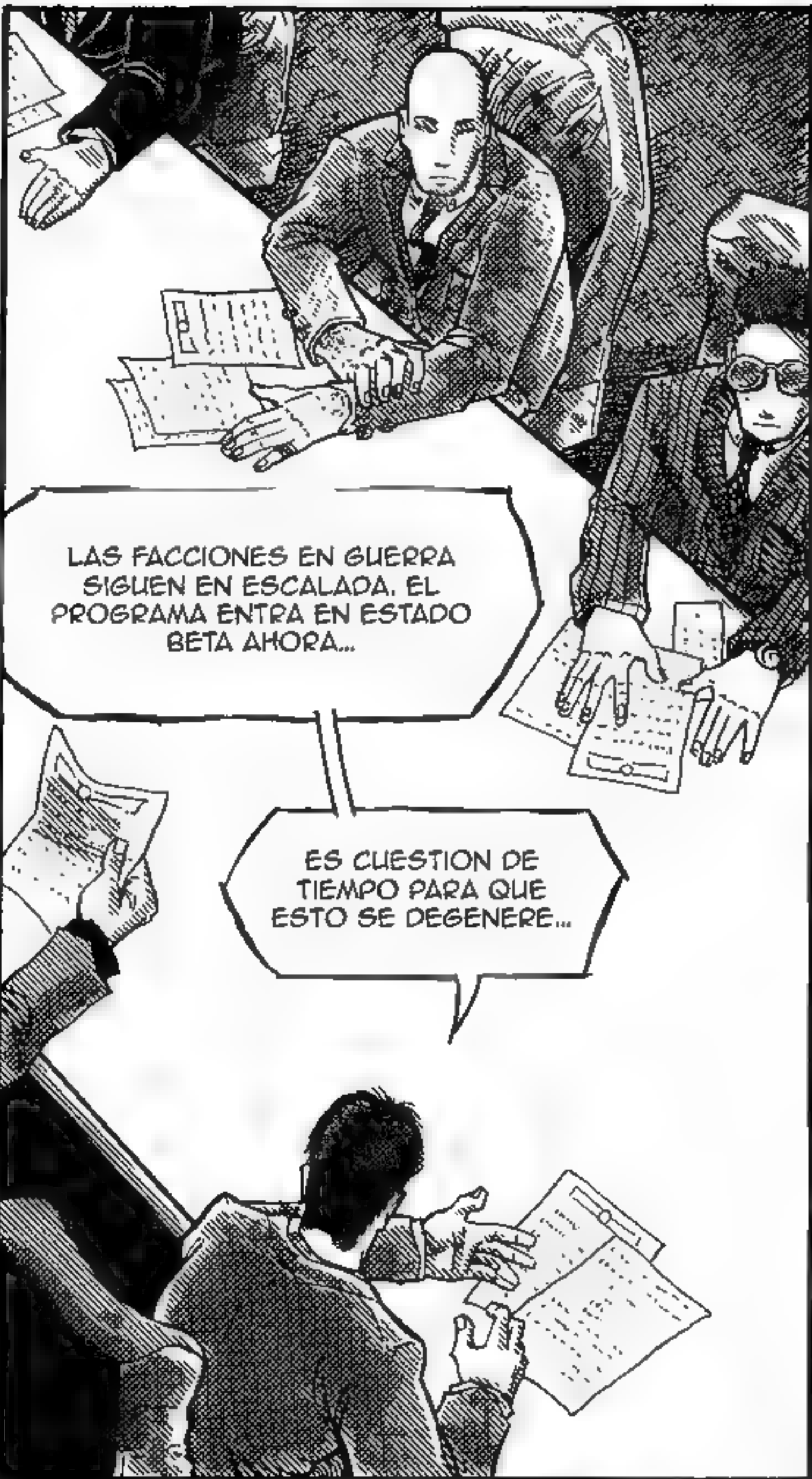
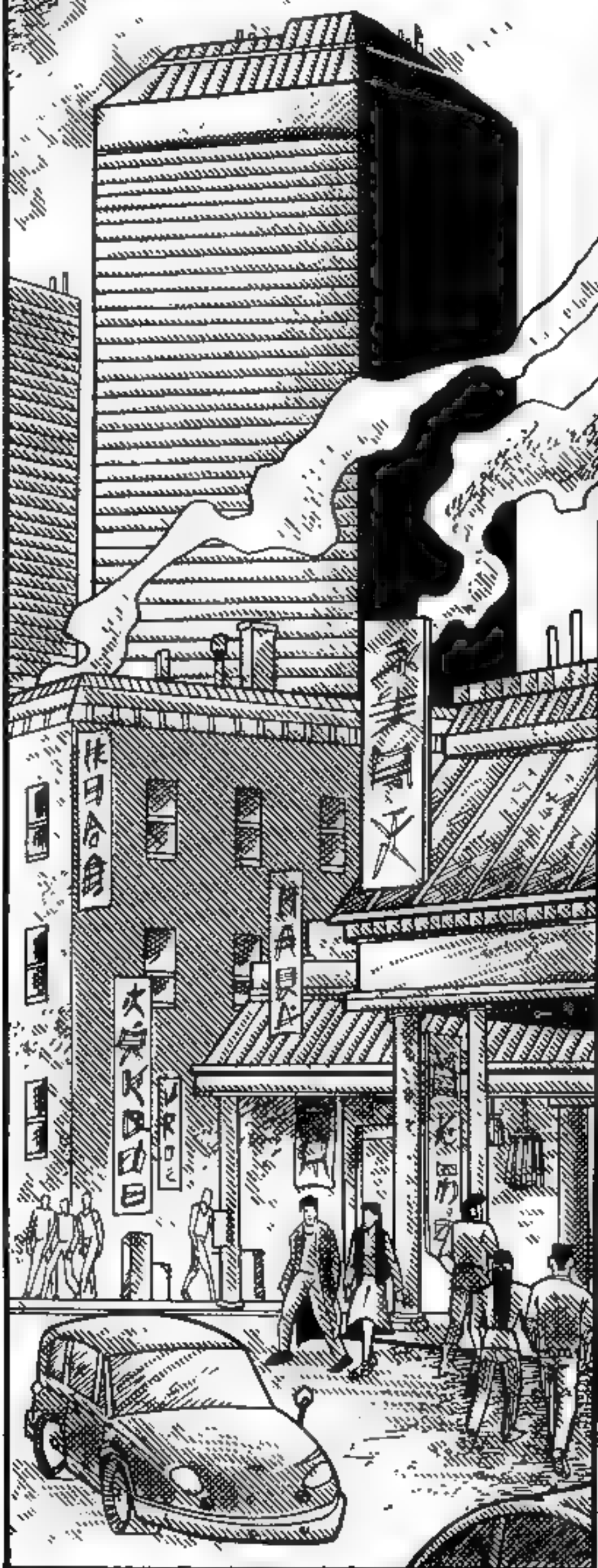
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TOKIO JAPON

LOS REPORTES SON
ERRATICOS PERO
PARECEN REALES...



LAS FACCIÓNES EN GUERRA
SIGUEN EN ESCALADA. EL
PROGRAMA ENTRA EN ESTADO
BETA AHORA...

ES CUESTION DE
TIEMPO PARA QUE
ESTO SE DEGENERE...



NO DEBEMOS
ESPERAR

EL CAOS ES
DEBILIDAD

VAMOS DAVE EL DINERO!



OUE

AAAAH!



WHUK



BLAM
BLAM



SIGUE INTENTANDO

QUIZAS EN
ALGUN
MOMENTO LE
DES A UN
BARRIL!





VIEJO...



QUE PASA?



ESTOY CANSADO ESO PASA



DONDE MIERDA
ESTA EL PIE?



SEGUIMOS DANDO
VUELTAS SIN ÉXITO

NO DEBIAMOS AYUDARLOS
ACASO?



ESE ES EL
PROBLEMA LEO...

NO VOLVIMOS A NEW YORK PARA
PEQUEÑAS COSAS...

NO ME
IMPORTAN!

RAFA...SPLINTER
DICE QUE A VECES
EL CAMINO
CORRECTO ES
INVISIBLE

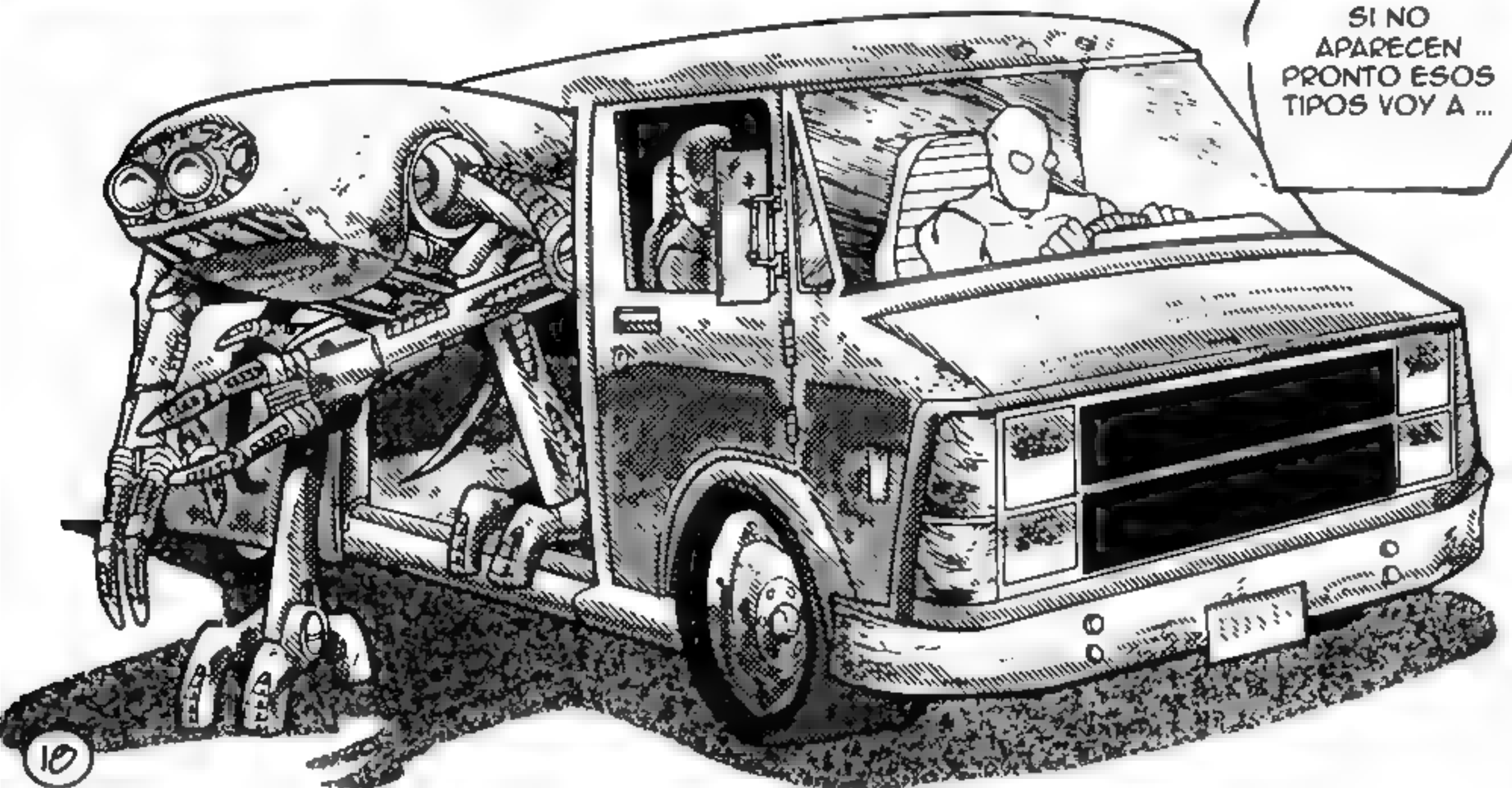
DEBEMOS
DARNOS
TIEMPO...

Y
VEREMOS

DEJA LA MIERDA
ZEN PARA TI LEO!

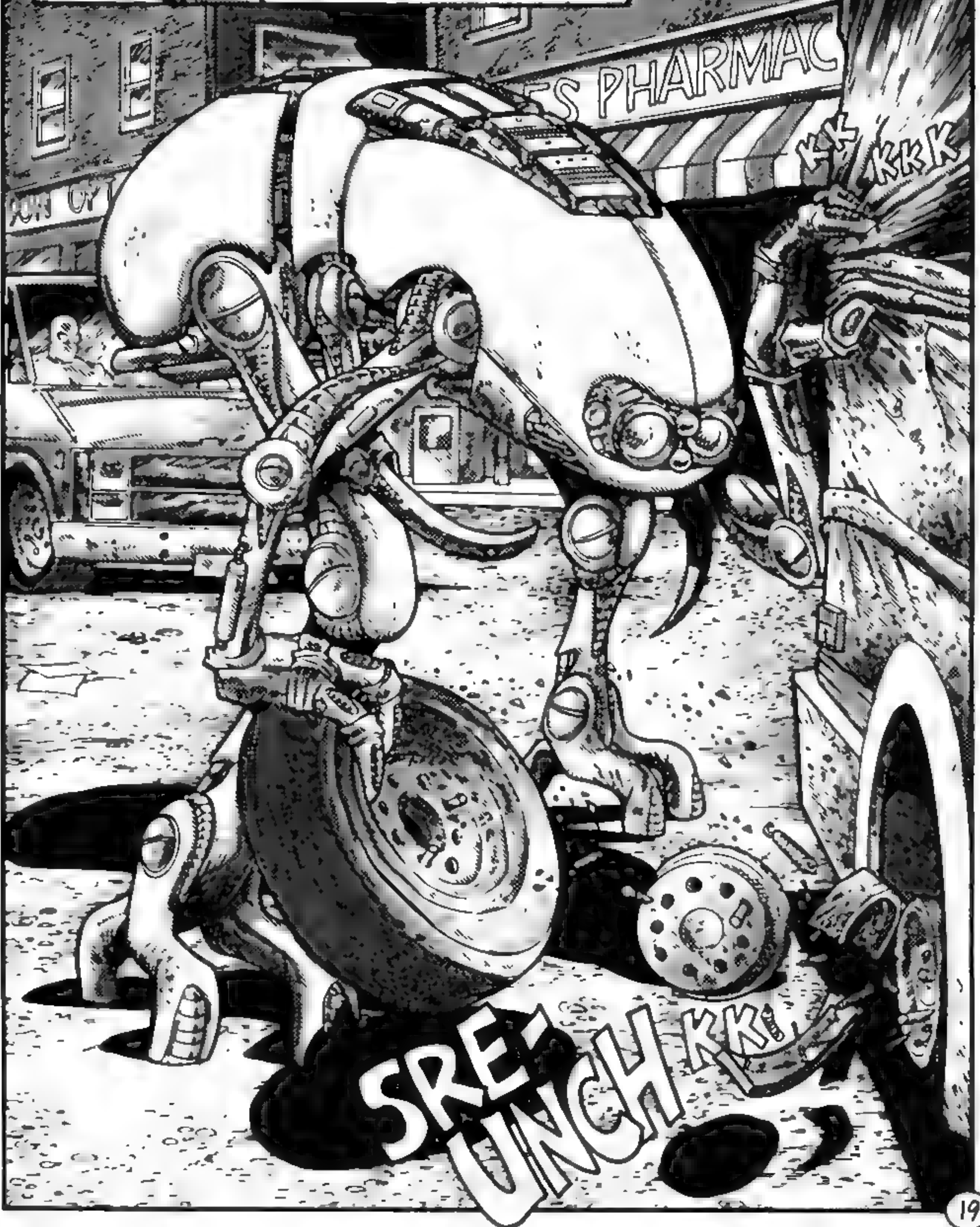
DEJA DE CREERTE BUDA Y
BUSQUEMOS ACCION DE
VERDAD!

SI NO
APARECEN
PRONTO ESOS
TIPOS VOY A ...

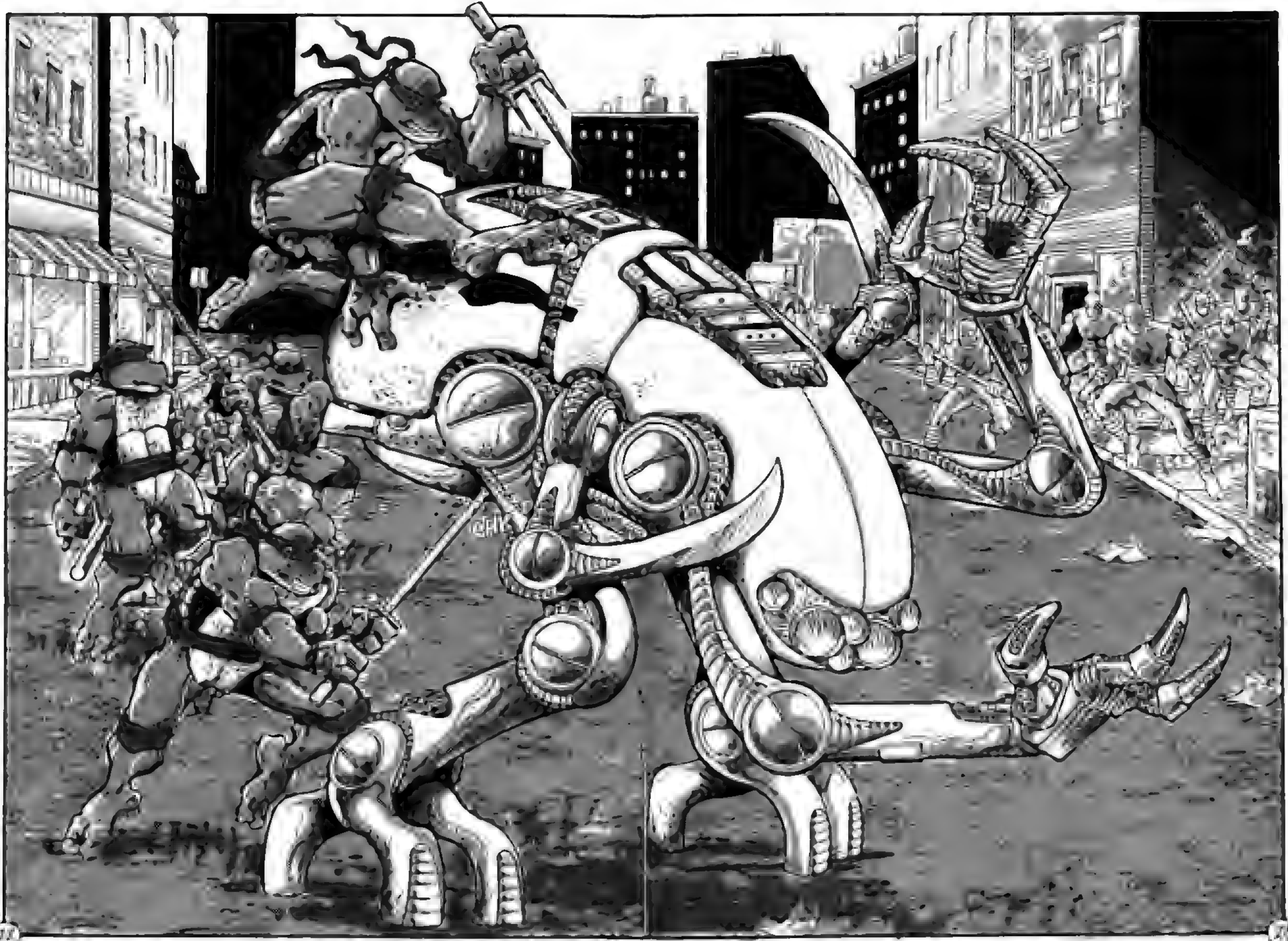




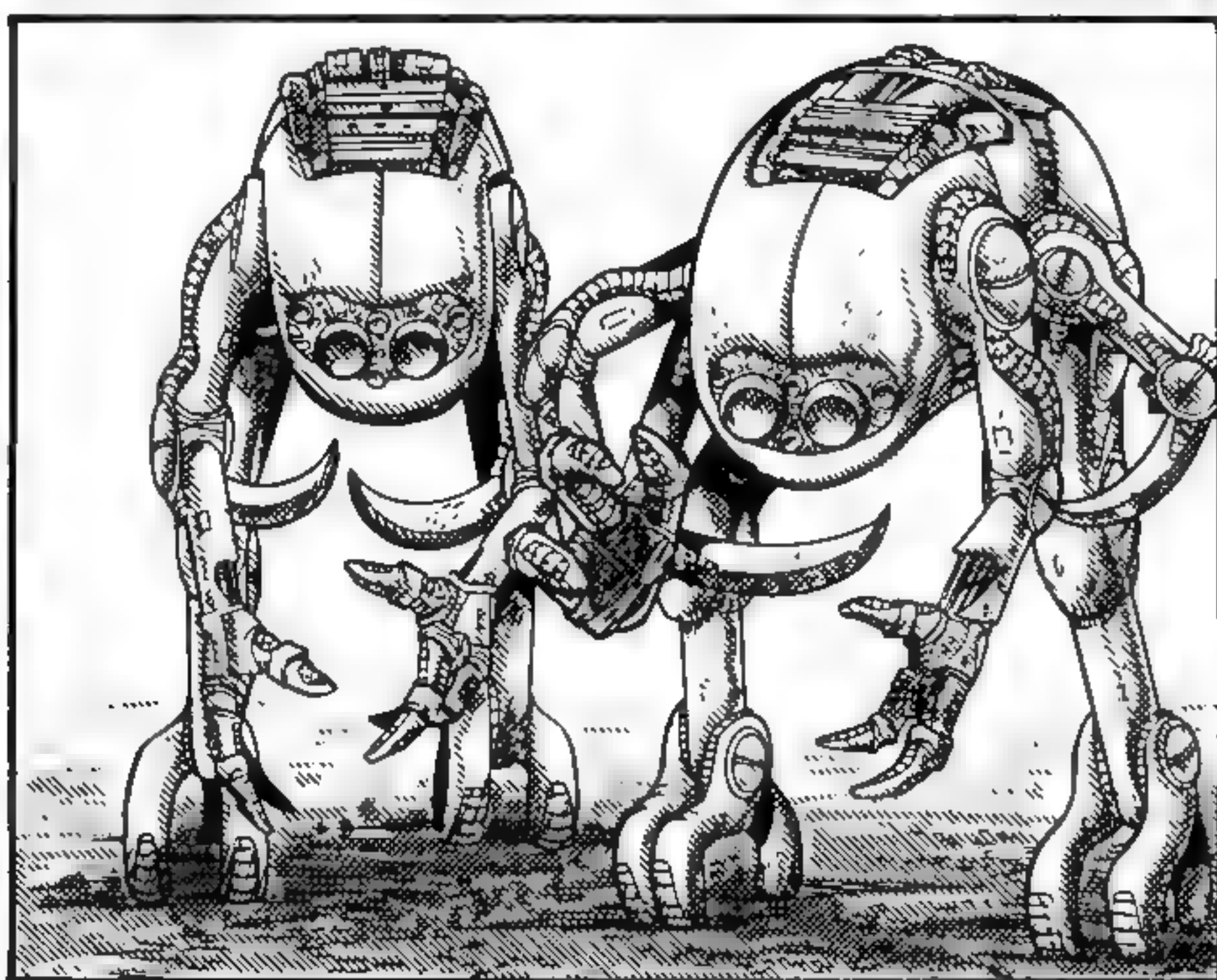
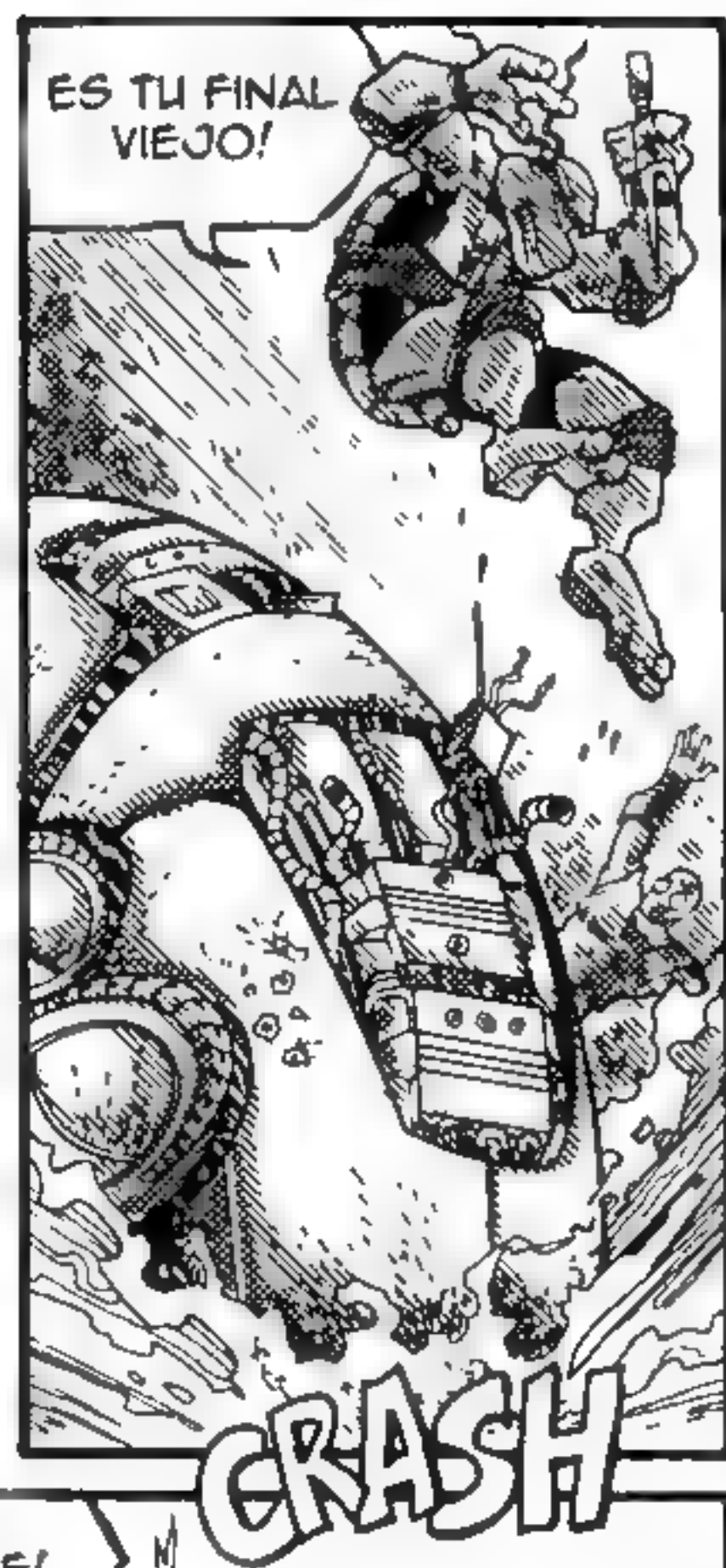
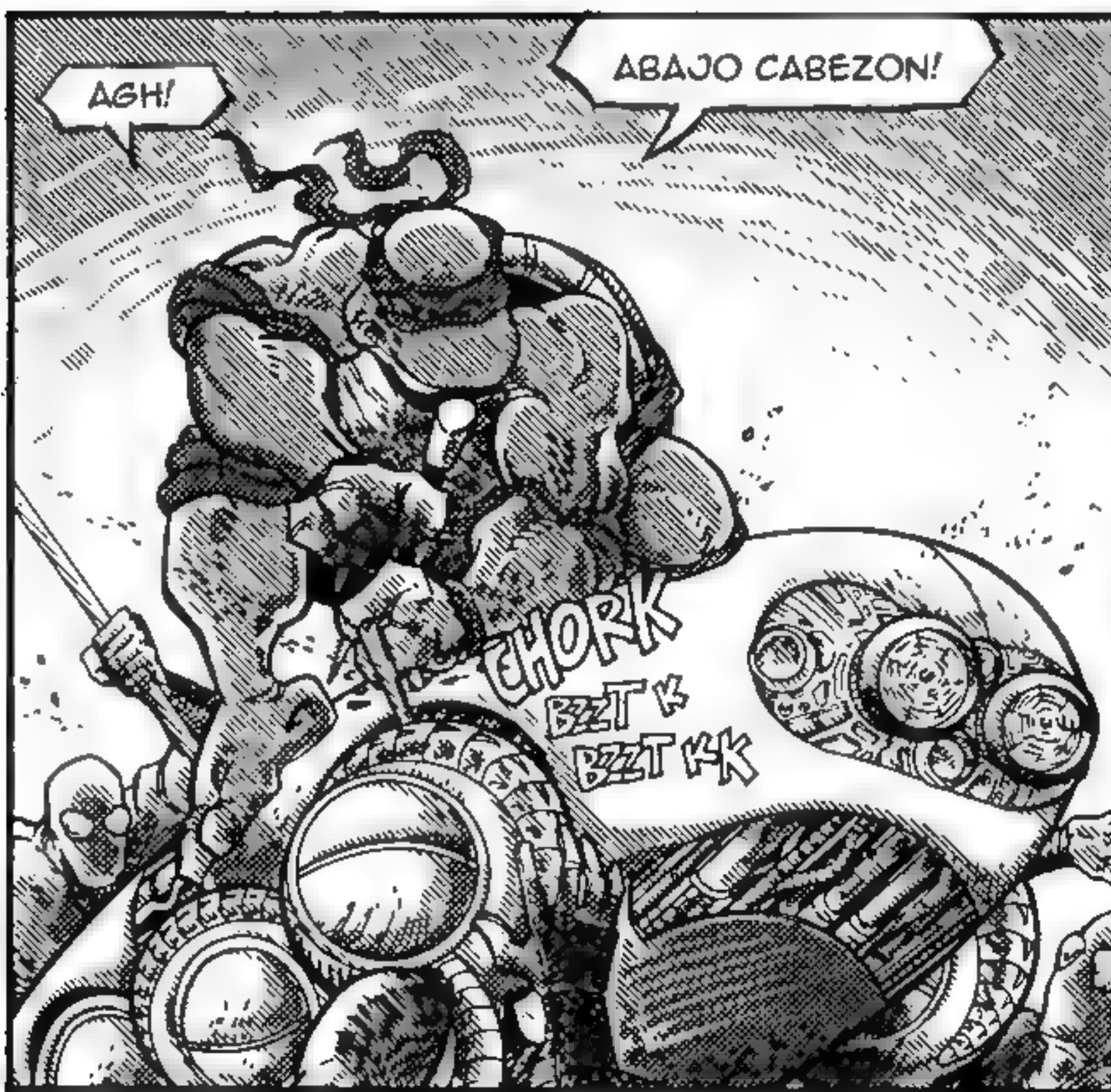
PONERME
OH DIOS
AHÍ ESTAN!













QUEDAMOS
EXPUESTOS!



MIRALO ASI RAFA...



NO PUEDE
PONERSE PEOR...

CONTINUARA

TRADUMAQUETACION:

PIPOCHOCO



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Dear Kevin & Peter:

I've been following the adventures of the Turtles since their conception in '84. Since then they've been turned into toys, their skin color has changed so many times it makes me dizzy, they've been swallowed by a cow's head and spat out, met more stupid mutants than I can count, and even been turned into, gulp, sissies. Don't get me wrong; just because Leo carries a pair of razor-sharp ninja-to, doesn't mean he has to use 'em, right? Farley, besides you guys, is just about the only guy who can portray the raw savageness of the turtle ninja. Ninjas, the ones I know about, actually kill people. It was their job. They are assassins. So, please, bring back the real TMNT. The ones who squashed crime without mercy, punished the Foot with no quarter given, and, yes, even killed lawbreakers sometimes.

Enough of that. What I wrote for is to say how much I liked your story "Shades of Gray", issues 48 and 49. I feel genuinely sorry for Casey. I've always liked Casey's character very much, and I was glad the story was mainly about him. Killing a young boy, even if it was an accident, would be mind-bending to a guy like him. Taking his frustration out on Donnie was something he needed to do, and I hope Donatello doesn't hold it against him. And I also think Donatello handled it quite well. Furthermore, I think that Casey would have won the sparring session on the log if he wasn't drunk. But he was drunk, and angry to boot. Getting dunked taught him a lesson and I think he learned something after his rap with Nobody. I would like to see Casey Jones back in action, and maybe clean up his act, as well. Get a new mask, so to speak.

One more thing. I would hate to see April leave, but she does have her own life to live. Splinter obviously realizes this, and thinks the Turtles have their own lives to live as well. Too bad Casey and April couldn't hit it off, eh? That would be interesting. Ha - Ha! Apparently the whole gang needs to sit down and have a little chat. Anger, resentment and jealousy have no place in a team. April, Splinter, the Turtles and Casey are just that, a team, and I honestly hope the team stays together.

Sayonara, guys. Long live the Turtles! P.S. Welcome back!

Mike Leong
Nelson, British Columbia

Dear Mirage Studio:

"Shades of Gray" was most interesting; new insights into everybody's character, an unprecedented look (in both senses) at Nobody. And Donatello finally acting like Donatello — slow to

anger, but deadly once he is. A needed look at the down-side of vigilanteism.

Here's a suggestion for stories for your anthology: how about some 'flashbacks' to the Turtles' developmental years? Do any particular incidents account for Raph's 'bad attitude', or Mike's happy-go-lucky one? How did Donatello discover his mechanical aptitude, Leo his leadership ability? I see fertile ground here.

Regards,

Jennifer Weston
Plantation, FL

Dear Mirage:

I must say that I was impressed by #s 48 and 49. These two issues proved, by far, that TMNT is much better than those other comics where the hero fights bigger-than-life supervillains, has 72 crossovers, and the outcome of the battle determines the fate of the universe! No, "Shades of Gray" dealt with a pretty realistic storyline. I really liked how Casey dealt with it, which is a lot better than how other comic heroes would deal with that kind of situation.

Now a question (of course)! In #21, how exactly did the Shredder die? Was he decapitated? I'm not sure.

My thanks,

Brock Otterbacher
Huntington Beach, CA

At the end of the 'Return to New York' story (issues 19-21), it's never made clear exactly how Leonardo kills Oroku Saki. Leonardo is seen carrying the dead Shredder and announces to his brothers that their master has been avenged.

Dear Kevin and Peter:

Greetings from one of your hardcore Turtle fans! Let me start off by saying that I LOVED ISSUE #50!!! "City at War" sounds like the best storyline since "Return to New York." I miss your artwork so much. Why aren't the two of you illustrating all thirteen issues? A.C. Farley's covers are wonderful!! I like the way his versions of the Turtles look almost real.

Kelly Schmader
Pickerington, OH

Dear Mirage Crew:

I started collecting TMNT comics starting with Mark Martin's issues 22 and 23. About that time I also had my local comic store order the four first graphic novels. Almost immediately I was hooked. Now,

with your 50th issue here, I'd like to give y'all a run-through of my three favorite issues so far.

"Twilight of the Ring" (TMNT #37) is my favorite. The idea of the Great Turtle and the Adversary was brilliant, plus Bill and Rick have a real talent for storytelling. I relish the supernatural tones of this story, and the things the Great Turtle taught Donatello.

Now, for my second favorite issue — "Halls of Lost Legends" (#43). Jenkins' story was one of the best I have ever read, not just in comics. That plus it was a TMNT story and it had A.C. Farley drawing it. How could it not be divine? I think when they were listening to Locke, Don just didn't buy his whole story, and had felt something when they were walking down the corridor. When he went off on his own in the Hall, I again find my answer in his thoughts: "I can feel it. The answer is behind these doors." Then, all the guys believed Locke, and Donatello knew he'd have to figure it out on his own. It somehow seemed right to me that he was exploring on his own.

Issue 49 is my third favorite ever. I'm not sure why Splinter slammed the door when April asked what she should do, except that maybe it seemed that she didn't appreciate them or something. Now when Casey went out in the woods and found Don on the log, he didn't have any basis for the things he was saying to Donatello. I know he was drunk, and that must be how he decided that Don ever acted superior, or did use complicated language. Don's actually very modest. Still on the log, Don says, "Casey, you're starting to get on my nerves, more than usual..." I didn't know that Don didn't like Casey.

One thing I've been wondering about is this. How old are the Turtles now? In #49, April's sister said "these past few years". When the series started, they were 15, correct? Well, just how many years has it been? Two? Three? Eventually, you won't be able to get away with calling them Teenage anymore, unless you drop them into the same time-vacuum that most fictional characters are in. I think that might be bad for the sake of the characters. I'm just puzzling over what you plan on doing. Have you thought about it?

You know, you could use a better name for your letters page. Since you dropped the Turtle Tracks from the info page, why don't you put that on? Or you could ask for suggestions.

In case you couldn't tell, I adore the Turtles. The stories I like best are the ones that are serious and deal with the spiritual or psychological aspects of the guys. I'd

also like to see Don take a bigger role in the series (I haven't actually said it yet, but Don is by far my favorite Turtle). I think Mirage is doing a great job on this comic, and I certainly hope it lives on for years after the mass-market version sputters out.

I'd be thrilled if you could publish my address for pen-pal purposes. I'm 16, but I'd write to anyone intelligent.

Sincerely,

Steve Stonebraker
662 Chestnut Street
Indiana, PA 15701-1868

You ask a good question — the Turtles won't stay 15 forever. As of issue #48, the Turtles are now 16 years old. The Turtles will continue to age (City at War will progress in 'real time' over the next 10 issues). Don't know what we'll call 'em when they get too much older though!

If any of you out there have ideas for what to call our letters page, send them in — we'd like to get your input!

Dear People,

Oooooo that ole' feeling is back! Congrats on #50! The idea of telling the story solely with images was more than a bit inspired, and it added greatly not only to the "feel" of the book, but also to the impression that this is indeed something fresh and different. Here we see the beginning of a small group of mysteries just built to pique curiosity. Just who is this Saki wanna-be? To what end the terrorism? And how can Splinter sit like that through an entire season without getting the mother of all cramps?

Speaking of mysteries, I've held my tongue on this for years but have finally reached the limit of my patience — WHO IS CHET?! During the history of your Turtle tides the name "Chet" has shown up again and again in the background artwork. #50 was no exception. Is this an in-joke? A tribute? Please let us in on the meaning behind this cryptic reference!

Oh, and...keep the stories coming. Thanks!

With sincerity,

John Mulhern
Pawtucket, RI

Well, John, there is no secret meaning to Chet. If you read A.C. Farley's short story entitled "15 Years Later" in Turtle Soup #4, you'll find out that Chet is the boy whose four baby turtles were knocked into the sewer and some mutagenic ooze...



SUNDAY Newspaper of the

Portsmouth Herald

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 1992

SECTIONS 32 PAGES

Turtles invade Portsmouth

Turtle Con '92 comes to town

By [illegible]

